

HONDA

Power

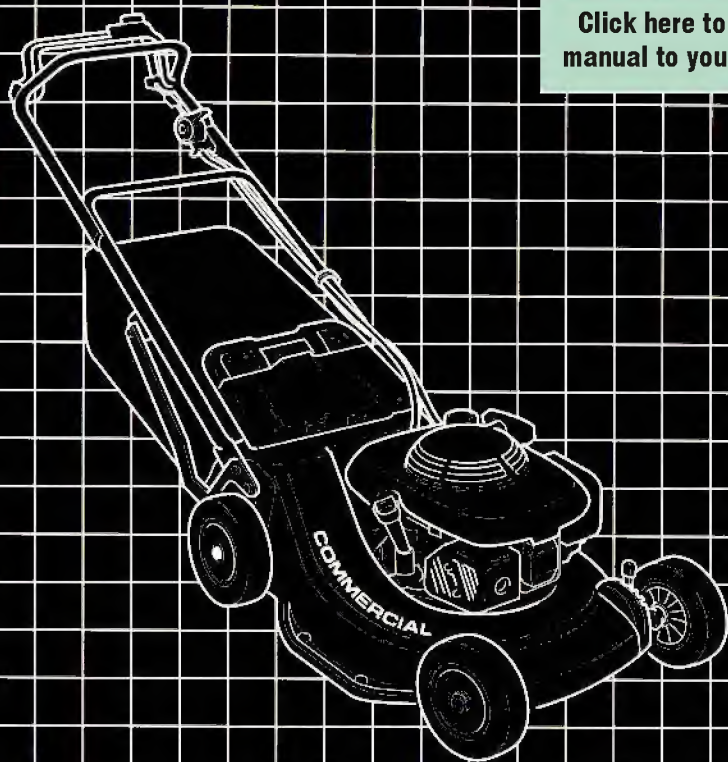
Equipment

Owner's Manual

Rotary Mower

HRC215SXA

Click here to save this
manual to your computer.



INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your selection of a Honda lawn mower! We are certain you will be pleased with your purchase of one of the finest lawn mowers on the market.

We want to help you get the best results from your new mower and to operate it safely. This manual contains the information on how to do that; please read it carefully.

We suggest you read the warranty policy to fully understand its coverage and your responsibilities of ownership. The warranty policy is a separate document that should have been given to you by your dealer.


When your mower needs scheduled maintenance, keep in mind that an authorized Honda servicing dealer is specially trained in servicing Honda mowers and is supported by the parts and service divisions of American Honda. Your Honda dealer is dedicated to your satisfaction and will be pleased to answer your questions and concerns.

Best Wishes,
Power Equipment Division
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

INTRODUCTION

SAFETY MESSAGES

Your safety and the safety of others is very important. We have provided important safety messages in this manual and on the lawn mower. Please read these messages carefully.

A safety message alerts you to potential hazards that can hurt you and others. Each safety message is preceded by a safety alert symbol  and one of three words: DANGER, WARNING, or CAUTION.

These mean:

 **DANGER**

You **WILL** be **KILLED** or **SERIOUSLY HURT** if you don't follow instructions.

 **WARNING**

You **CAN** be **KILLED** or **SERIOUSLY HURT** if you don't follow instructions.

 **CAUTION**

You **CAN** be **HURT** if you don't follow instructions.

Each message tells you what the hazard is, what can happen, and what you can do to avoid or reduce injury.

DAMAGE PREVENTION MESSAGES

You will also see other important messages that are preceded by the word **NOTICE**.

This word means:

NOTICE

Your lawn mower or other property can be damaged if you don't follow instructions.

The purpose of these messages is to help prevent damage to your lawn mower, other property, or the environment.

CONTENTS

Turn to the beginning of each chapter for a complete list of subjects.

MOWER SAFETY	5
Important information about some specific hazards, and what you can do to prevent injury.	
CONTROLS	9
Identification of components and information about how the controls work.	
BEFORE OPERATION	17
How to fuel and check your mower to be sure it is ready. How to prepare your lawn and yourself before you begin mowing.	
OPERATION	25
Starting and stopping the engine, safe mowing practices, and mowing tips.	
TRANSPORTING	37
How to load and carry your mower safely.	
MAINTENANCE	39
When and how to perform routine inspection, service, and adjustments to keep your mower in good operating condition.	
TROUBLESHOOTING	59
What to check if you have a problem with your mower.	
STORAGE	63
How to protect your mower from rust and corrosion, and ensure that it will start easily when you want to use it again.	
SPECIFICATIONS	71
Dimensions, capacities, and other technical information.	
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	75
Additional information, Honda publications available to you, and how to contact us if you have a question or a warranty repair problem.	
INDEX	81
QUICK REFERENCE INFORMATION ... inside back cover	

MOWER SAFETY

This chapter explains what you need to know to operate your mower safely.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION	6
Avoid Rotating Blade	6
Clear Mowing Area	6
Keep Shields in Place	6
Refuel with Care	6
Wear Protective Clothing	6
Turn Engine Off When Not Mowing	6
IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO EMPLOYERS	7
SAFETY LABEL LOCATIONS	8

MOWER SAFETY

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Most accidents with walk-behind mowers can be prevented if you follow all instructions in this manual and on the mower. The most common hazards, according to accident statistics, are discussed below, along with the best way to protect yourself and others.

Avoid Rotating Blades

Rotating blades can cause serious cuts and even amputate fingers, hands, toes, or feet. Keep away from the mower deck whenever the engine is running. If you need to adjust the cutting height, or work around the deck for any other reason, always shut off the engine. Wear heavy gloves and disconnect the spark plug cap when you need to clean the mower deck or handle the blade.

Clear Mowing Area

Mower blades can throw rocks and other objects with enough force to cause serious injury. Before mowing, carefully inspect the area and remove all sticks, stones, pieces of wire, and other loose objects. Never operate the blade over gravel.

Keep Shields in Place

Guards and shields are designed to protect you from being hit by thrown objects and from hot engine parts and moving components. For your safety and the safety of others, keep all shields in place when the engine is running.

Refuel with Care

Gasoline is extremely flammable and gasoline vapor can explode. Refuel only outdoors, in a well-ventilated area, with the engine OFF. Never smoke near gasoline, and keep other flames and sparks away. Always store gasoline in an approved container.

Wear Protective Clothing

Wearing protective clothing will reduce your risk of injury. Long pants and eye protection reduce the risk of injuries from thrown objects. Sturdy shoes with aggressive soles will help protect your feet and give you better traction on slopes or uneven ground.

Turn Engine Off When Not Mowing

If you need to leave the mower for any reason, even just to inspect the lawn ahead, always turn the engine OFF.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO EMPLOYERS

As an employer, you have special responsibilities to the people who work for you.

Before you ask anyone to operate this mower, you need to determine whether the person is old enough, large enough, and strong enough to safely handle and control the mower.

If you decide they are, make sure the employee reads and understands all instructions and warnings in this manual and on the labels before operating the mower.

Allow adequate time for hands-on training by a qualified instructor, and personally supervise practice sessions until you feel sure the employee is ready to operate the machine.

Also be sure employees wear proper clothing and have eye protection and any other gear that may be required by local ordinances or your insurance company.

Remember, too, that you are responsible for keeping the mower properly maintained and in safe operating condition.

Your commitment to safety on the job can help prevent accidents and result in longer and more productive years of service.

MOWER SAFETY

SAFETY LABEL LOCATIONS

The labels shown here contain important safety information. Please read them carefully. These labels are considered permanent parts of your mower. So if a label comes off or becomes hard to read, contact your dealer for a replacement.

⚠ CAUTION

UNDER NORMAL USAGE, THIS BAG MATERIAL IS SUBJECT TO DETERIORATION AND WEAR, AND SHOULD BE CHECKED FREQUENTLY FOR BAG REPLACEMENT. THIS BAG CONFORMS TO A.N.S.I. STANDARD B71.1, ANY REPLACEMENT MUST MEET THIS STANDARD.

⚠ WARNING

DO NOT START UNLESS GUARD IS CLOSED OR BAG IS IN PLACE.

- READ OWNER'S MANUAL BEFORE OPERATING.
- DISCONNECT THE SPARK PLUG CAP BEFORE SERVICING THE DECK OR BLADE.
- DO NOT ALLOW ANYONE TO STAND IN FRONT OF MOWER.
- TO PREVENT INJURY FROM THROWN OBJECTS; CLEAR AREA OF DEBRIS KEEP OTHERS AWAY.
- TO PREVENT SERIOUS INJURY, DO NOT REACH INSIDE WHEN ENGINE IS RUNNING.
- DO NOT REMOVE GUARDS.

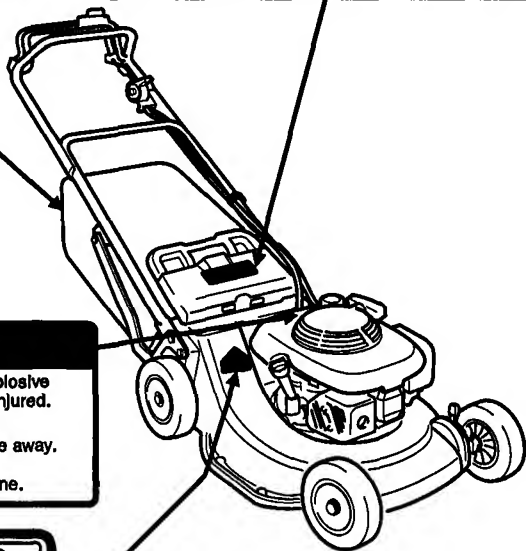
⚠ WARNING

Gasoline is highly flammable and explosive and you can be burned or seriously injured. When refueling:

- Keep heat, sparks, and open flame away.
- Fill fuel tank only outdoors.
- Wipe up spills before starting engine.

DANGER

KEEP HANDS and FEET AWAY



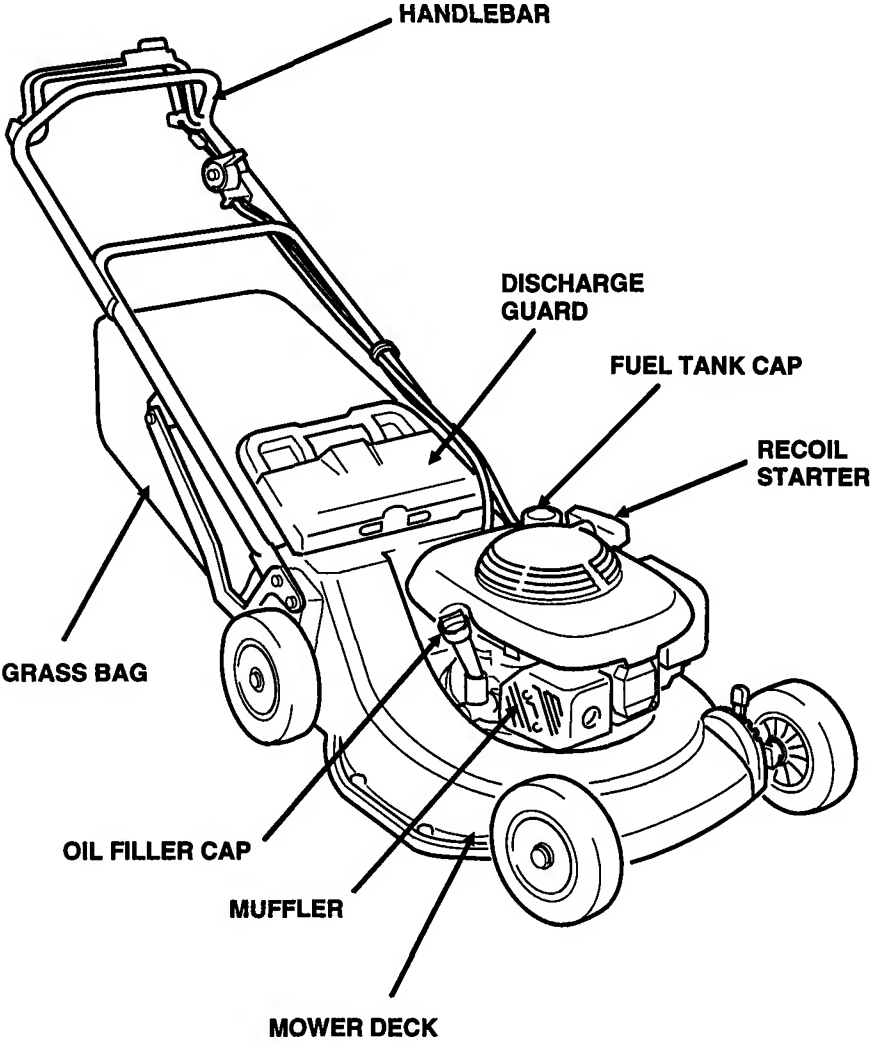
CONTROLS

This chapter shows the locations of controls and other important parts of your mower, and it tells you how the controls work.

COMPONENT IDENTIFICATION	10
DESCRIPTION OF CONTROLS	12
Throttle Lever	12
Blade Control Lever	13
Drive Clutch Lever	13
Shift Lever	14
Cutting Height Adjustment Levers	15

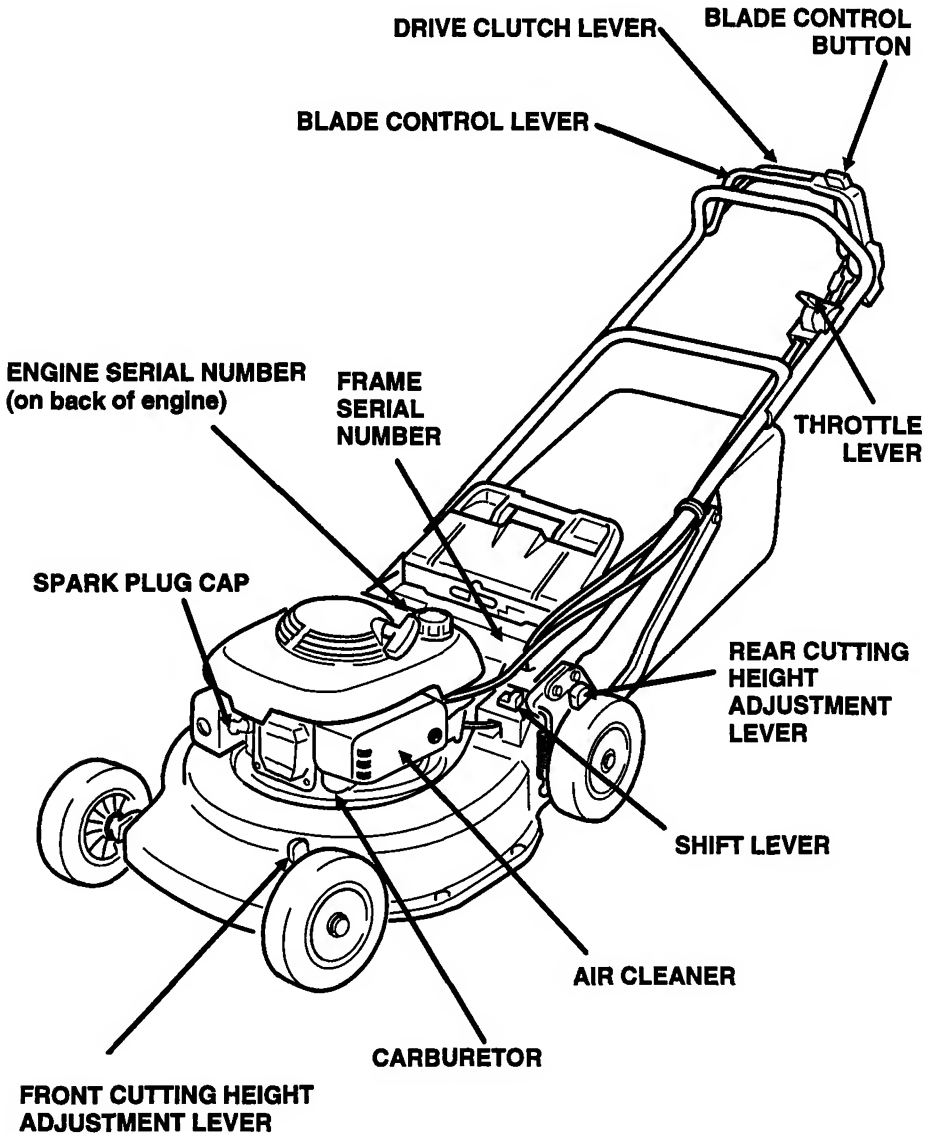
CONTROLS

COMPONENT IDENTIFICATION



HRC215K1SXA: Self-propelled, high-lift blade, and grass bag

CONTROLS



Record the frame and engine serial numbers in the space below. You will need these serial numbers when ordering parts and when making technical or warranty inquiries (see page 77).

Frame serial number: MZAU – _____

Engine serial number: GJAB – _____

CONTROLS

DESCRIPTION OF CONTROLS

Throttle Lever

CHOKE -- For starting a cold engine.



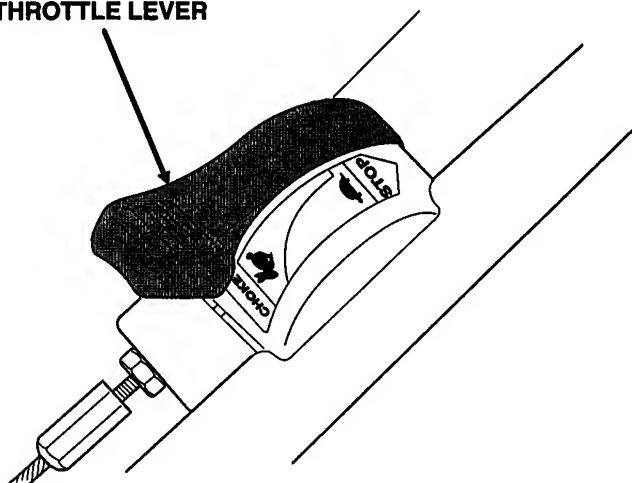
FAST --- For restarting a warm engine and for mowing.



SLOW --- For idling the engine.

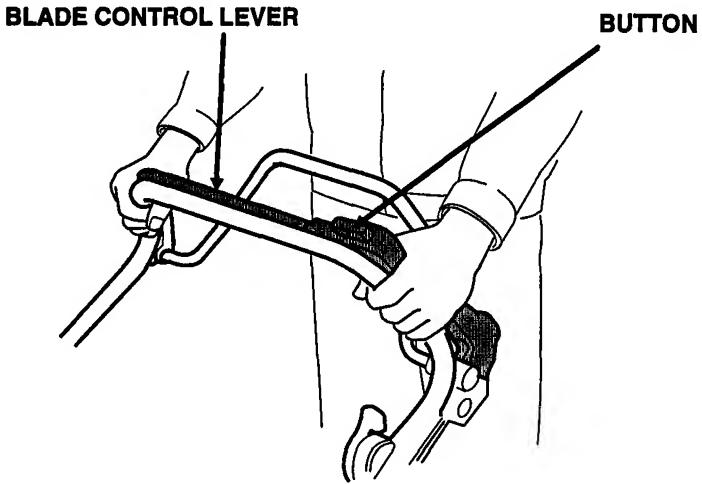
STOP --- For stopping the engine and closing the fuel valve.

THROTTLE LEVER



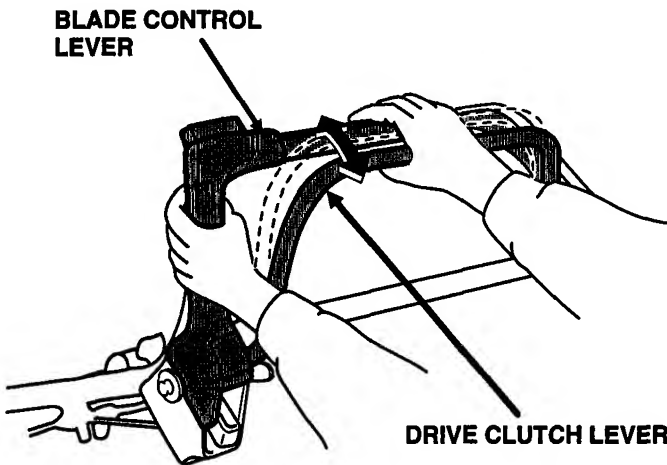
Blade Control Lever

The blade control lever starts and stops blade rotation.



Drive Clutch Lever

The drive clutch lever engages and disengages the transmission that drives the rear wheels.

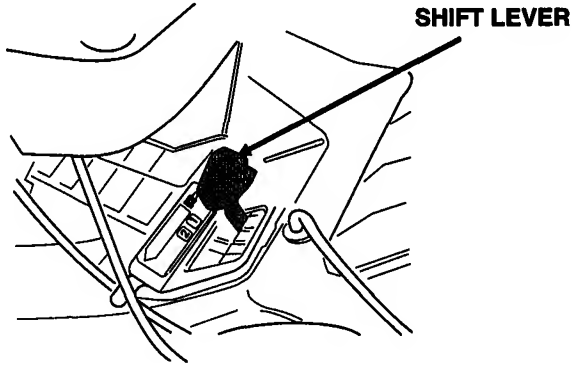


CONTROLS

Shift Lever

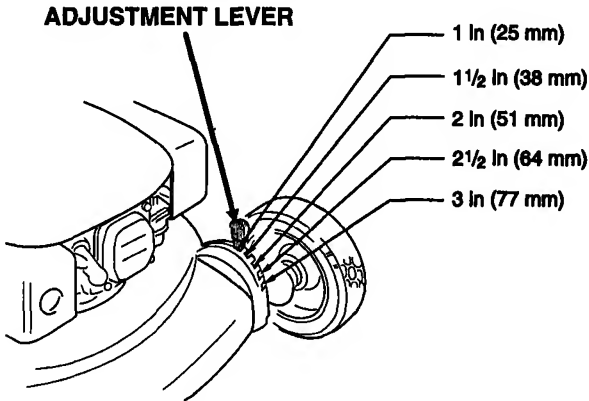
The shift lever selects and controls the mower's drive speed.

- 1 (SLOW)——For mowing thick grass or maneuvering in small areas.
- 2 (FAST) ——For maximum self-propelled speed in large, open areas and for transport.

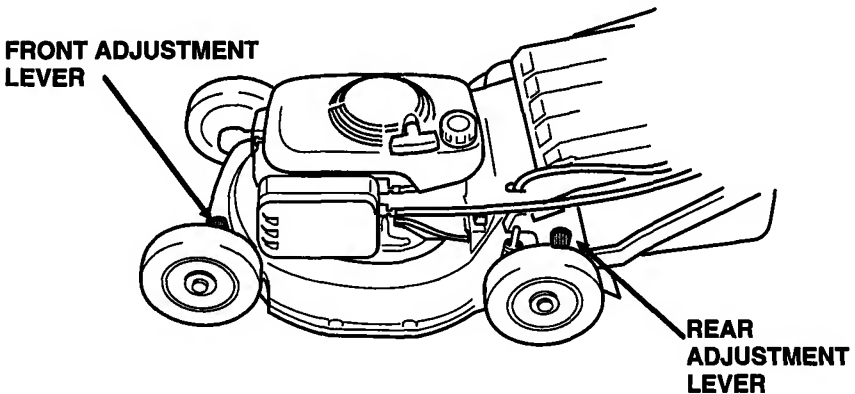


Cutting Height Adjustment Levers

There are five settings to choose from, as shown in the illustration. The cutting height figures are approximate. The actual height of cut grass will vary with lawn and soil conditions.



There is a front and a rear adjustment lever. The front adjustment lever controls the height adjustment for both front wheels. The rear adjustment lever controls the height adjustment for both rear wheels.



BEFORE OPERATION

This chapter explains how to fuel and check your mower to be sure it is ready, and it tells you how to prepare your lawn and yourself before you begin mowing.

CHECK YOUR LAWN	18
Objects	18
People and Pets	18
Lawn	18
CHECK YOUR MOWER	19
Blade	19
Engine Oil Level	20
Fuel	21
Air Cleaner Inspection	22
Grass Bag	23
Inspection	23
Installation	23
Removal	23
Cutting Height	24
Are YOU Ready to Mow?	24

BEFORE OPERATION

CHECK YOUR LAWN

For your safety and for the safety of others, always inspect the area before mowing.

Objects

Anything which can be picked up by the blades and thrown is a potential hazard to you and others. Look for things like stones, sticks, bones, and wire. Remove them from the mowing area.

People and Pets

People and animals near the mowing area can move into your path or into a position where they could be struck by thrown objects. Clear the area of people and pets, especially children. Their safety is your responsibility.

Lawn

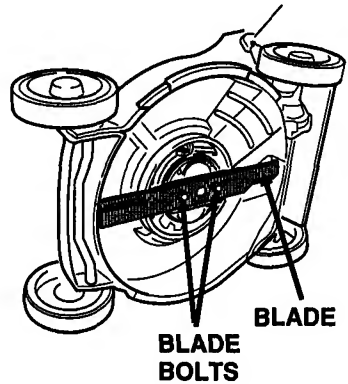
Check the length and condition of the grass, so you will know what cutting height and mowing speed to use.

Avoid mowing wet grass. Not only will wet grass clog your mower deck and collect in clumps on the lawn, it also gives poor traction, increasing your risk of losing your footing.

CHECK YOUR MOWER

Blade

With the throttle lever in the STOP position, and the spark plug cap disconnected, tilt the mower to the right, so the carburetor side is up. This will help to prevent fuel leakage and hard starting.



Inspect the blade for wear and damage.



NORMAL



**EXCESSIVELY
WORN**



BENT



CRACKED

A dull blade can be sharpened, but a blade that is worn out, bent, cracked, or otherwise damaged must be replaced. A worn or damaged blade can break, causing blade pieces to be thrown from the mower.

When a blade needs sharpening or replacement take the lawn mower to an authorized Honda servicing dealer. Or, if you have a torque wrench, you can remove and install a blade yourself (see pages 55-56).

Check that the blade bolts are tight (see page 56).

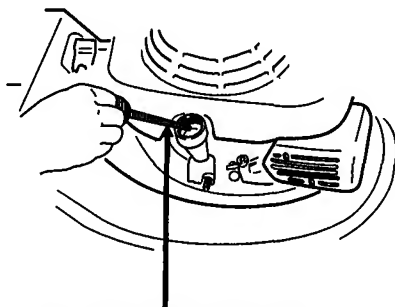
BEFORE OPERATION

Engine Oil Level

Check the engine oil level with the engine stopped and the mower on a level surface.

1. Remove the oil filler cap, and wipe the dipstick clean.

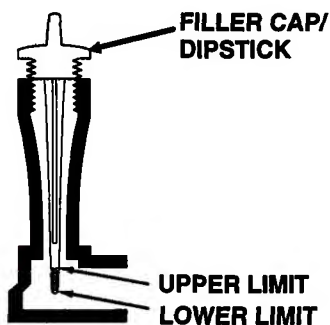
2. Insert and remove the dipstick without screwing it into the filler neck. Check the oil level shown on the dipstick.



FILLER CAP/DIPSTICK

3. If the oil level is low, add the recommended oil (see page 45) to reach the upper limit mark on the dipstick. Do not overfill.

4. After checking the engine oil level, screw in the filler cap/dipstick securely.



Fuel

Fuel tank capacity: 0.26 US gal (1.0 ℓ)

Refuel in a well-ventilated area before starting the engine. If the engine has been running, allow it to cool. Refer to [page 51](#) for fuel recommendations and [page 78](#) for information about oxygenated fuels.

Remove the fuel tank cap and check the fuel level. Refill the tank if the fuel level is low. Refuel carefully to avoid spilling fuel. Do not overfill; there should be no fuel in the filler neck. After refueling, tighten the fuel tank cap securely.

⚠ WARNING

Gasoline is highly flammable and explosive and you can be burned or seriously injured when handling fuel.

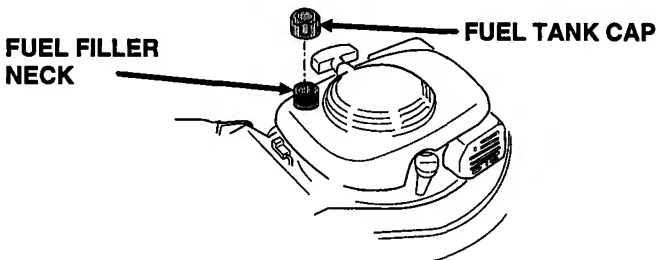
- Stop engine and keep heat, sparks, and flame away.
- Handle fuel only outdoors.
- Wipe up spills immediately.

Never refuel the mower inside a building where gasoline fumes may reach flames or sparks. Keep gasoline away from appliance pilot lights, barbecues, electric appliances, power tools, etc.

Spilled fuel is not only a fire hazard, it causes environmental damage. Wipe up spills immediately.

NOTICE

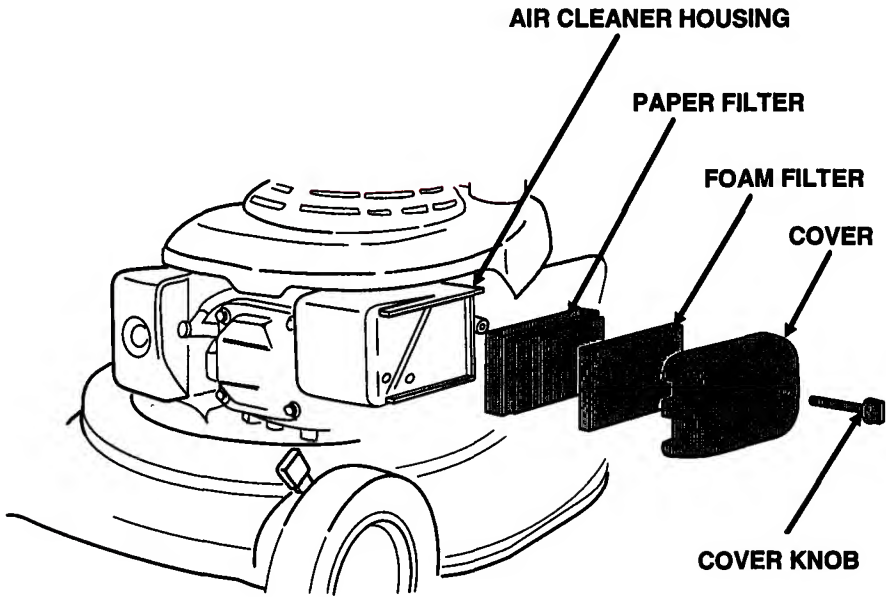
Fuel can damage paint and plastic. Be careful not to spill fuel when filling your fuel tank. Damage caused by spilled fuel is not covered under warranty.



BEFORE OPERATION

Air Cleaner Inspection

Check that the air filters are clean and in good condition. Dirty air filters will restrict air flow to the carburetor, reducing engine performance. Refer to page 47 for air cleaner service.



Grass Bag

A lawn mower works like a vacuum cleaner; it blows air through the bag, which traps the grass clippings. Always empty the grass bag before it becomes filled to the limit of its capacity. Bagging performance will diminish after the bag becomes about 90% filled. Also, the bag is easier to empty when it is not packed full.

Inspection

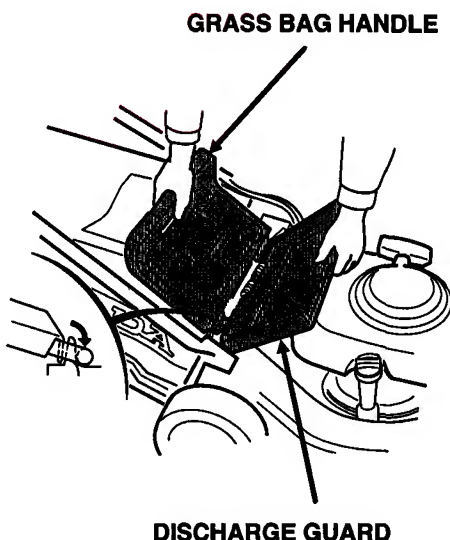
Inspect the grass bag for tears, holes, and excessive wear. The grass bag wears during normal use and will eventually require replacement. Grass bag replacement is explained on [page 57](#).

Installation

1. Raise the discharge guard, and hook the grass bag onto the mower deck as shown.
2. Release the discharge guard to secure the grass bag.

Removal

1. Raise the discharge guard, grasp the grass bag handle and remove the grass bag.
2. Release the discharge guard.
3. When the grass bag is clear of the discharge guard, you can lift it through the handlebar opening, or you can remove it to the rear of the mower below the handlebar.

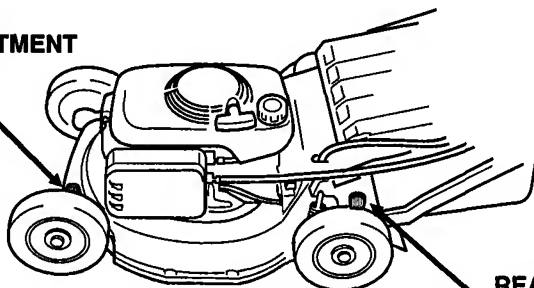


BEFORE OPERATION

Cutting Height

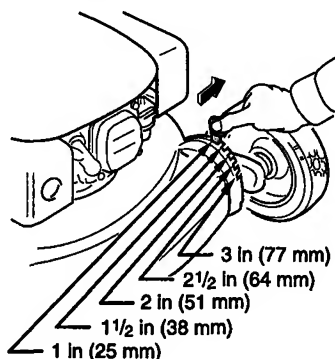
Check the mower deck cutting height settings. Be sure that the front and rear adjustment levers are set to the same cutting height position.

**FRONT ADJUSTMENT
LEVER**



**REAR
ADJUSTMENT
LEVER**

To adjust cutting height, pull each adjustment lever toward the wheel, and move it into another notch.



If you are not sure what cutting height to select, start with a high setting and check the appearance of the lawn after mowing a small area. Then readjust the cutting height if necessary.

Are YOU Ready to Mow?

Be sure to wear protective clothing. Long pants and eye protection can lower your risk of injury from thrown objects. Wear footwear that protects your feet and won't let you slip if you mow on slopes or uneven ground.

OPERATION

This chapter tells you how to operate the mower safely and effectively.

MOWING PRECAUTIONS	26
STARTING THE ENGINE	26
OPERATING THE CONTROLS FOR MOWING	28
Throttle Lever	28
Blade Control Lever	28
Drive Clutch Lever	29
Shift Lever	29
STOPPING THE ENGINE	30
SAFE MOWING PRACTICES	31
Slopes	31
Obstacles	32
Gravel and Loose Objects	32
MOWING TIPS	33
When to Mow	33
Cutting Height	33
Cutting Width	33
Blade Speed	34
Blade Sharpness	34
Dry Grass	34
Wet Grass	34
Fallen Leaves	34
Clogged Mower Deck	34
Mowing Pattern	35
Side-Discharge Mowing	35
Mulching	35

OPERATION

MOWING PRECAUTIONS

Before operating the mower for the first time, please review the *IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION* beginning on **page 6** and the previous chapter, titled *BEFORE OPERATION*.

Even if you have operated other mowers, take time to become familiar with how this mower works and practice in a safe area until you build up your skills.

For your safety, avoid starting or operating the engine in an enclosed area such as a garage. Your mower's exhaust contains poisonous carbon monoxide gas which can collect rapidly in an enclosed area and cause illness or death.

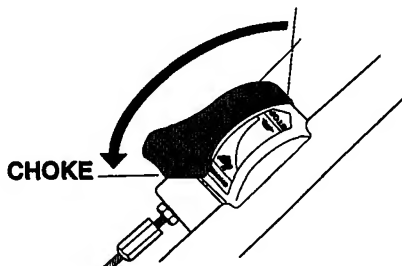
STARTING THE ENGINE

Before starting, always release the blade control lever and drive clutch lever, so the blade will not turn, and the mower will not move forward, when you operate the starter.

1. Move the throttle lever to the proper starting position.

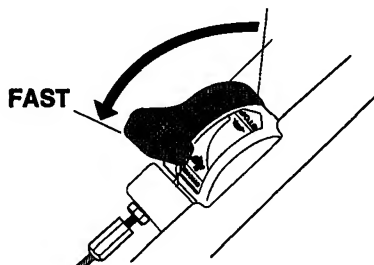
COLD ENGINE:

Move the throttle lever to the **CHOKE** position.

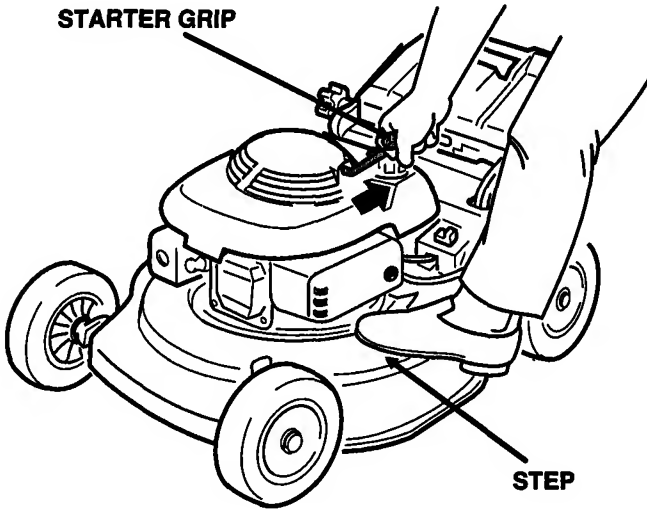


WARM ENGINE:

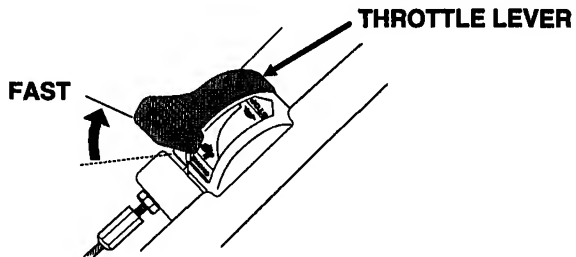
Move the throttle lever to the **FAST** position.



2. Place your foot on the mower deck step. Pull the starter grip lightly until you feel resistance, then pull briskly. Return the starter grip gently.



3. If the CHOKE position was used during starting, move the throttle lever away from the CHOKE position as soon as the engine warms up enough to run smoothly. Set the throttle lever at FAST to mow or at SLOW to idle.



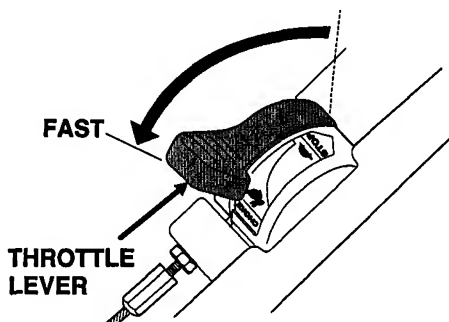
OPERATION

OPERATING THE CONTROLS FOR MOWING

Throttle Lever

For best cut quality, always mow with the throttle lever in the FAST position. When the blade rotates at the preset fast speed, it creates a strong fan action that lifts and cuts grass more efficiently. Do not try to increase the preset engine speed, the blade could fracture and come apart.

When you need to empty the grass bag or leave the mower for any reason, move the throttle lever to the STOP position.

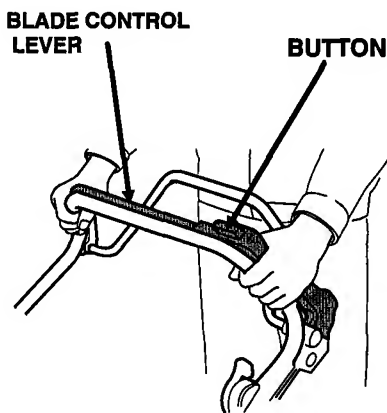


Blade Control Lever

To start blade rotation, press the button on top of the blade control lever, then push the lever forward and hold it against the handlebar.

Release the blade control lever to stop the blade.

Operate the blade control lever with a quick and complete motion, so the blade control is always either fully engaged or stopped. This will help to prevent stalling the engine, and it will also extend the service life of the blade control mechanism.



Always release the blade control lever before starting the engine to prevent the blade from turning.

Drive Clutch Lever

To propel the mower, push the drive clutch lever forward, and hold it against the handlebar.

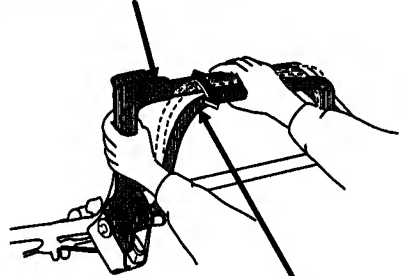
Release the drive clutch lever to stop the mower.

Operate the drive clutch lever with a quick and complete motion, so the drive clutch is always either fully engaged or released. This will help to extend the service life of the clutch mechanism.

For self-propelled mowing, press the button on top of the blade control lever, push the blade control lever forward, then push the drive clutch lever forward. Hold both levers against the handlebar.

Always release the drive clutch lever before starting the engine. If the drive clutch is engaged, the mower will move forward when you operate the starter.

BLADE CONTROL LEVER



DRIVE CLUTCH LEVER

Shift Lever

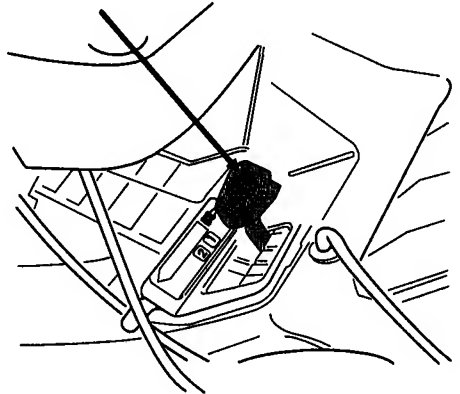
Use the shift lever to select the forward speed at which you wish to mow.

Release the drive clutch lever and the blade control lever before moving the shift lever.

To avoid incomplete gear engagement, be sure the shift lever is centered in one of the two detent positions.

Do not use the throttle lever to adjust your forward speed. The throttle lever must remain in the FAST position for good mowing performance. Otherwise, cut quality suffers.

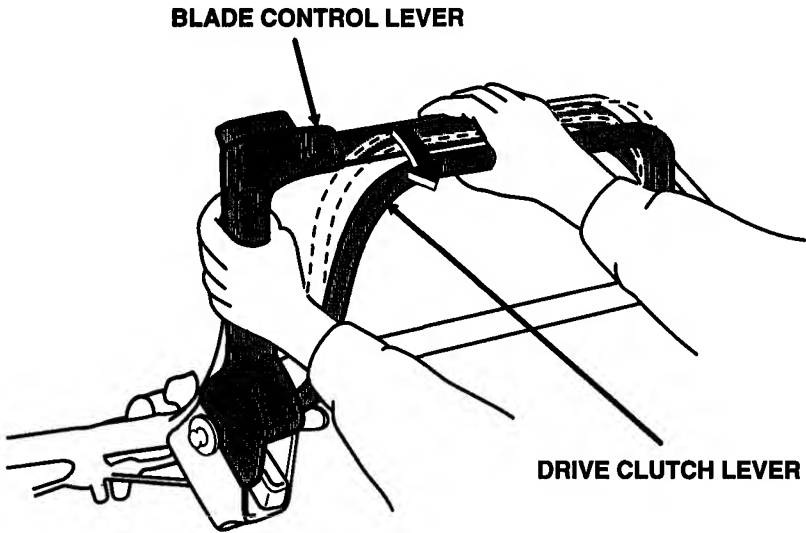
SHIFT LEVER



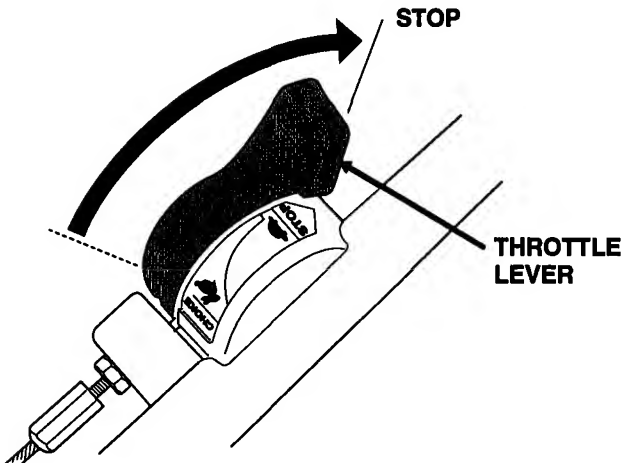
OPERATION

STOPPING THE ENGINE

1. Release the drive clutch lever and the blade control lever.



2. Move the throttle lever to the STOP position.



SAFE MOWING PRACTICES

For your safety, keep all four wheels on the ground, and be careful to avoid losing your footing and your control of the mower. Keep a firm grip on the handlebar, and walk, never run, with the mower. Be very careful when mowing uneven or rough ground.

If stuck, do not kick or shove the mower with your foot. Use the handlebar to control the mower.

WARNING

The blade is sharp and spins at high speed.

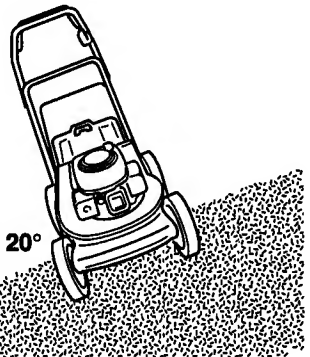
A spinning blade can cut you severely and can amputate fingers and toes.

- Wear protective footwear.
- Keep your hands and feet away from the mower deck while the engine is running.
- Stop the engine and disconnect the spark plug cap before performing any adjustment, inspection, or maintenance.

Slopes

Mow across slopes, not up and down. Avoid steep slopes (more than 20°), and be careful when changing direction. Mowing on a slope when the grass is damp or wet could cause you to slip, fall, and lose control of the mower.

MAXIMUM SLOPE: 20°



OPERATION

Obstacles

Use the side of the mower to cut close to large obstacles, such as fences or walls.

Release the drive clutch lever to disengage the drive when mowing around trees and other obstacles. Push the mower around obstacles for better directional control. Be careful when mowing over obstacles embedded in the lawn, such as sprinkler heads, paving, edging, etc. Avoid anything that sticks up above the surface of the lawn.

If the blade hits something, or if the mower starts to vibrate, stop the engine immediately, disconnect the spark plug cap, and check for damage (see page 19). Striking objects may damage the blade, bend the crankshaft, and/or break the mower deck or other components. Vibration usually indicates serious trouble.

WARNING

A worn, cracked, or damaged blade can break, and pieces of the damaged blade can become dangerous projectiles.

Thrown objects can cause serious injury.

Inspect the blade regularly, and do not operate the mower with a worn or damaged blade.

The Distributor's Limited Warranty does not cover parts damaged by accident or collision.

Gravel and Loose Objects

Gravel, loose stones, and landscaping material can be picked up by the mower and thrown many feet with enough force to cause serious personal injury and/or property damage. The best way to prevent potential injury from thrown objects is to release the blade control lever to stop the blade before reaching areas with gravel, loose stones, or landscaping material.

MOWING TIPS

When to Mow

Most grasses should be mowed when they have grown $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch above their recommended height.



More frequent mowing is required for mulching than for bagging. For best results, you may need to mow the lawn twice a week during the growing season.

Cutting Height

Consult a local nursery or lawn and garden center for cutting height recommendations and advice about specific types of grasses and growing conditions in your area.



If you look closely, you'll see that most grass has stems and leaves. If you cut off the leaves, you'll scalp the lawn. Let the grass recover between mowings. Your mower will work better, and your lawn will look better.

LONG ENOUGH



TOO SHORT

If your grass gets too tall, cut it once at the highest cutting height setting, then mow again in 2 or 3 days. Don't take off more than one third of total grass height in any one mowing, or brown patches may develop.

Cutting height adjustment is explained on [page 15](#).

Cutting Width

For an even lawn finish, overlap each mowing swath by a few inches. If the grass is very tall or thick, use more overlap and a narrower mowing swath.

OPERATION

Blade Speed

The blade must spin very fast to cut properly. Always use the FAST throttle setting, and keep the engine running at maximum rpm.

If engine speed drops, it could mean the engine is being overloaded by the blade trying to cut too much grass. Mow a narrower swath, move the mower slower, or raise the cutting height.

Blade Sharpness

A sharp blade cuts cleanly. A dull blade tears the grass, leaving shredded ends that turn brown. When your blade doesn't cut cleanly anymore, have it sharpened or replaced.

Dry Grass

If the ground is too dry, mowing will stir up a lot of dust. Besides being unpleasant to work in, too much dust will clog the carburetor air filter.

If dust is a problem, water your lawn the day before mowing. Mow when the grass is dry to your touch, but the soil is still moist.

Wet Grass

Wet grass is slippery and can make you lose your footing. Also, wet grass clippings will clog the mower deck and collect in clumps on the lawn. Always wait for wet grass to dry before mowing.

Fallen Leaves

When equipped with a grass bag, your mower can be used to pick up fallen leaves for disposal. If using the mower to bag large amounts of fallen leaves, and not for mowing, set the cutting height adjustment levers so the front of the mower deck is one or two settings higher than the rear.

If you want to mulch fallen leaves into your lawn, don't let the leaf cover get too deep before you begin. For best results, start mulching while grass still shows through the leaf cover. In places where fallen leaves completely cover the grass, remove the leaves by raking, or install a grass bag, so your mower can pick them up for disposal.

Clogged Mower Deck

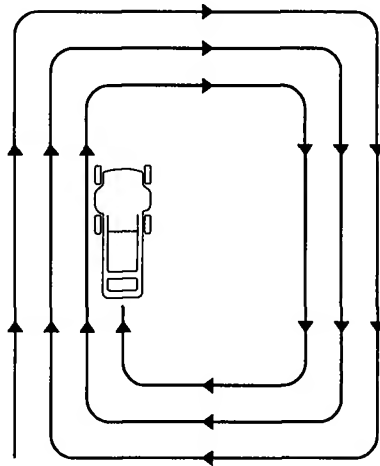
Before clearing a clogged mower deck, stop the engine and turn the fuel valve off by moving the throttle lever to the STOP position. With the spark plug cap disconnected, tilt the mower so the carburetor side is up.

Clear a clogged deck with a stick, not your hands.

Mowing Pattern

Your Honda mower will give the best bagging performance, leave the least amount of clippings on the lawn, if you use a clockwise mowing pattern. Mower deck and equipment design, and the direction in which the blade rotates, cause a clockwise pattern to give the best bagging results.

If the lawn has an irregular shape, or many obstacles, divide it into sections where you can use a clockwise mowing pattern.



Side-Discharge Mowing

(requires optional side-discharge chute)

Where possible, use the same mowing pattern recommended for bagging. If the lawn has an irregular shape, or many obstacles, divide it into sections where clippings will be discharged away from uncut areas. This will prevent clippings from piling up in the path of the mower.

Mulching

(requires optional mulch kit)

An optional mulch kit is available from your authorized Honda lawn mower dealer. Refer to the instructions included with the mulch kit for mowing recommendations.

TRANSPORTING

This chapter explains how to load and carry your mower safely.

BEFORE LOADING	38
LOADING AND UNLOADING	38

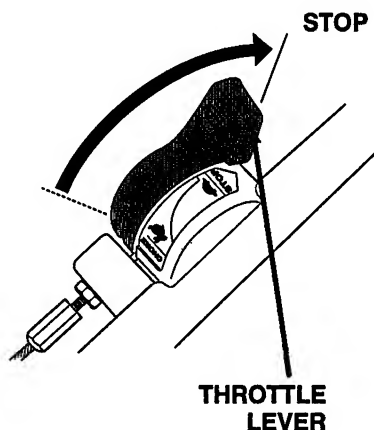
TRANSPORTING

BEFORE LOADING

If the engine has been running, allow it to cool for at least 15 minutes before loading the mower on the transport vehicle. A hot engine and exhaust system can burn you and can ignite some materials.

Remove the grass bag.

Put the throttle lever in the STOP position to shut off the fuel valve. This will prevent carburetor flooding and reduce the possibility of fuel leakage.



LOADING AND UNLOADING

If a suitable loading ramp is not available, two people should lift the mower on and off the transport vehicle while holding the mower level.

Position the mower so all four wheels are on the bed of the transport vehicle. Tie the mower down with rope or straps, and block the wheels. Keep the tie-down rope or straps away from the controls, adjustment levers, cables, and the carburetor.

MAINTENANCE

This chapter explains when and how to perform routine inspection, service, and adjustments for do-it-yourself maintenance. More difficult maintenance tasks should be done by your dealer. Your dealer is best equipped and staffed to provide the level of service and safety you and your mower deserve.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTENANCE	40
MAINTENANCE SAFETY	41
Safety Precautions	41
EMISSION CONTROL SYSTEM	42
Source of Emissions	42
The California Clean Air Act	42
Tampering and Alteration	42
Problems that may Affect Emissions	42
PROPER MAINTENANCE IS OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY	43
Replacement Parts	43
Maintenance	43
MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE	44
ENGINE MAINTENANCE	45
Engine Oil Change	45
Air Cleaner Service	47
Spark Plug Service	48
Carburetor Adjustment	50
Carburetor Modification for High Altitude Operation . . .	50
Fuel Recommendations	51
CONTROL CABLE ADJUSTMENTS	52
Blade Control Cable Adjustment	52
Drive Clutch Cable Adjustment	53
THROTTLE CABLE INSPECTION	54
BLADE REMOVAL AND INSTALLATION	55
Blade Removal	55
Blade Installation	56
GRASS BAG CLEANING AND REPLACEMENT	57
Grass Bag Cleaning	57
Grass Bag Replacement	57

MAINTENANCE

THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTENANCE

Good maintenance is essential for safe, economical, and trouble-free operation. It will also help reduce air pollution.

To help you properly care for your mower, the following pages include a maintenance schedule, routine inspection procedures, and simple maintenance procedures using basic hand tools. Other service tasks that are more difficult, or require special tools, are best handled by professionals and are normally performed by a Honda technician or other qualified mechanic.

The maintenance schedule applies to normal operating conditions. If you operate your mower under unusual conditions, consult an authorized Honda servicing dealer for recommendations applicable to your individual needs and use.

WARNING

Improper maintenance, or failure to correct a problem before operation, can cause a malfunction in which you can be seriously hurt or killed.

Always follow the inspection and maintenance recommendations and schedules in this owner's manual.

MAINTENANCE SAFETY

Some of the most important safety precautions follow. However, we cannot warn you of every conceivable hazard that can arise in performing maintenance. Only you can decide whether or not you should perform a given task.

WARNING

Failure to properly follow maintenance instructions and precautions can cause you to be seriously hurt or killed.

Always follow the procedures and precautions in this owner's manual.

Safety Precautions

- Make sure the engine is off before you begin any maintenance or repairs. This will eliminate several potential hazards:
 - **Carbon monoxide poisoning from engine exhaust.**
Be sure there is adequate ventilation whenever you operate the engine.
 - **Burns from hot parts.**
Let the engine and exhaust system cool before touching.
 - **Injury from moving parts.**
Do not run the engine unless instructed to do so.
- Read the instructions before you begin, and make sure you have the tools and skills required.
- To reduce the possibility of fire or explosion, be careful when working around gasoline. Use only a nonflammable solvent, not gasoline, to clean parts. Keep cigarettes, sparks, and flames away from all fuel-related parts.

Remember that an authorized Honda servicing dealer knows your mower best and is fully equipped to maintain and repair it.

To ensure the best quality and reliability, use only new, genuine Honda parts or their equivalents for repair and replacement.

MAINTENANCE

EMISSION CONTROL SYSTEM

Source of Emissions

The combustion process produces carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, and hydrocarbons. Control of hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen is very important because, under certain conditions, they react to form photochemical smog when subjected to sunlight. Carbon monoxide does not react in the same way, but it is toxic.

Honda utilizes lean carburetor settings and other systems to reduce the emissions of carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, and hydrocarbons.

The California Clean Air Act

California regulations require all manufacturers to furnish written instructions describing the operation and maintenance of emission control systems.

The following instructions and procedures must be followed in order to keep the emissions from your Honda engine within the emission standards.

Tampering and Alteration

Tampering with or altering the emission control system may increase emissions beyond the legal limit. Among those acts that constitute tampering are:

- Removal or alteration of any part of the intake, fuel, or exhaust systems.
- Altering or defeating the governor linkage or speed-adjusting mechanism to cause the engine to operate outside its design parameters.

Problems that may Affect Emissions

If you are aware of any of the following symptoms, have your engine inspected and repaired by your dealer.

- Hard starting or stalling after starting.
- Rough idle.
- Misfiring or backfiring under load.
- Afterburning (backfiring).
- Black exhaust smoke or high fuel consumption.

PROPER MAINTENANCE IS THE OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY

Replacement Parts

The emission control systems on your new Honda engine were designed, built, and certified to conform with the California regulations. Honda recommends only the use of new, genuine Honda parts or their equivalent. The use of other replacement parts which are not of equivalent quality may impair the effectiveness of your emission control system.

Maintenance

Follow the maintenance schedule on page 44. Remember that this schedule is based on the assumption that your machine will be used for its designed purpose. Sustained high-load or high-temperature operation, or use in unusually wet or dusty conditions, will require more frequent service.

MAINTENANCE

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

ITEM	REGULAR SERVICE PERIOD (3)		Before Each Use	First 20 Hours	Every 50 Hours	Every 100 Hours	Every 300 Hours	Refer to page
	Perform at every indicated interval							
	Blade condition and blade bolt tightness	Check	O					19 56
	Grass bag	Check	O					23
•	Engine oil	Check	O					20
		Change		O		O		45
•	Air Cleaner	Check	O					22
		Clean			O(1)			47
		Replace					O*(1)	
•	Spark plug	Clean-Adjust				O		48
		Replace					O	
	Spark arrester (optional equipment)	Clean				O		79
•	Idle speed	Check-Adjust					O(2)	50
	Blade control mechanism	Check		O(2)		O(2)		–
	Blade control cable	Adjust		O		O		52
	Drive clutch cable	Adjust		O		O		53
	Throttle cable	Adjust		O(2)		O(2)		–
•	Valve clearance	Adjust					O(2)	–
•	Fuel tank	Clean					O(2)	–
•	Fuel line	Replace	Every 2 years (2)					–

- Emission related items.

* Replace the paper filter only.

(1) Service more frequently when used in dusty areas.

(2) These items should be serviced by an authorized Honda servicing dealer, unless you have the proper tools and are mechanically proficient. Refer to the Honda shop manual for service procedures.

(3) For commercial use, log hours of operation to determine proper maintenance intervals.

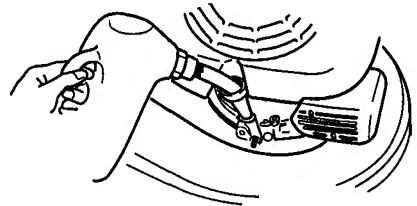
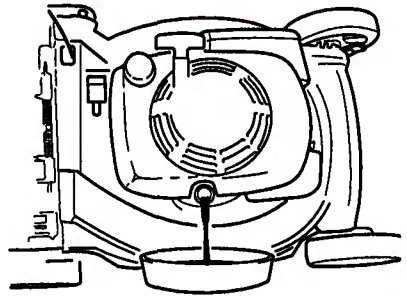
ENGINE MAINTENANCE

Engine Oil Change

Drain the used oil while the engine is warm. Warm oil drains quickly and completely.

1. Put the throttle lever in the STOP position to shut off the fuel valve. This will reduce the possibility of fuel leakage (see page 30).
2. Wipe the oil filler area clean, then remove the oil filler cap/dipstick.
3. Place a suitable container next to the mower to catch the used oil, then tilt the mower on its right side. The used oil will drain through the filler neck. Allow the oil to drain completely.

Please dispose of used motor oil and the containers in a manner that is compatible with the environment. We suggest you take it in a sealed container to your local recycling center or service station for reclamation. Do not throw it in the trash or pour it on the ground or down a drain.



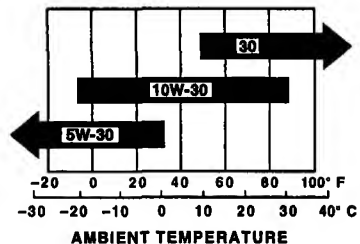
4. Fill with the recommended oil. Do not overfill; measure the oil level as shown on page 46.

Engine oil capacity:
0.63 US qt (0.6 l).

NOTICE

Running the engine with a low oil level can cause engine damage.

Use 4-stroke motor oil that meets or exceeds the requirements for API service classification SF, SG, or equivalent. Always check the API SERVICE label on the oil container to be sure it includes the letters SF, SG, or equivalent.



MAINTENANCE

NOTICE

Using nondetergent oil can shorten the engine's service life, and using 2-stroke oil can damage the engine.

SAE 10W-30 is recommended for general use. Other viscosities shown in the chart (previous page) may be used when the average temperature in your area is within the indicated range.

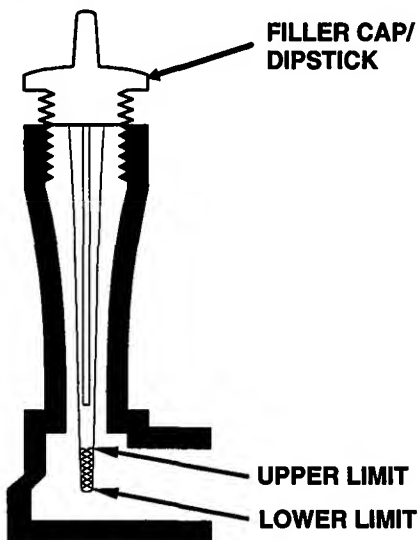
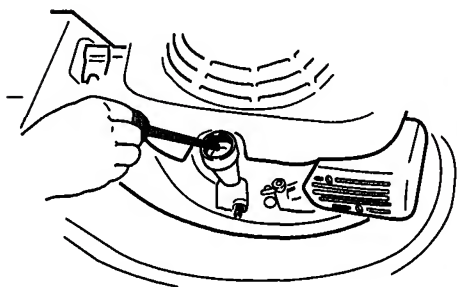
5. After changing the engine oil, and before starting the engine, check the oil level with the mower on a level surface:

- a. Wipe the dipstick clean.
- b. Insert and remove the dipstick without screwing it into the filler neck. Check the oil level shown on the dipstick.
- c. If the oil level is low, add oil to reach the upper limit mark on the dipstick. Do not overfill. If the engine is overfilled, the excess oil may get transferred to the air cleaner housing and air cleaner elements.

NOTICE

Running the engine with a low oil level can cause engine damage.

d. Screw in the filler cap/dipstick securely.

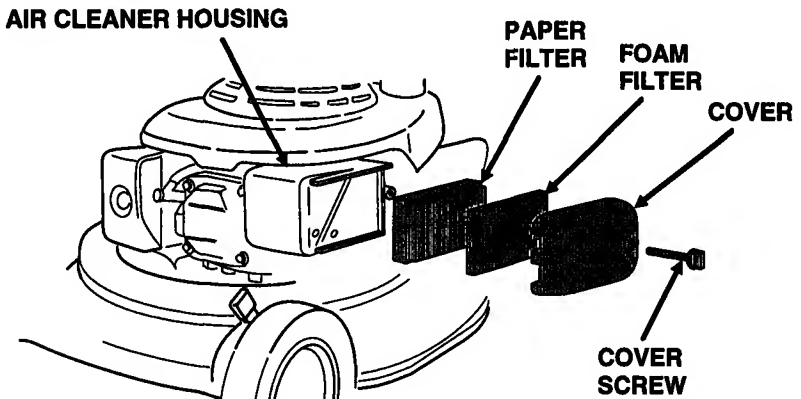


Air Cleaner Service

Dirty air filters will restrict air flow to the carburetor, reducing engine performance. If you operate the mower in very dusty areas, clean the air filters more often than specified in the MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE.

NOTICE

Operating the engine without air filters, or damaged filters, will allow dirt to enter the engine, causing rapid engine wear. This type of damage is not covered by the Distributor's Limited Warranty.



1. Unscrew and remove the air cleaner housing cover screw, then remove the air cleaner housing cover.
2. Remove the paper filter from the air cleaner housing. Remove the foam filter from the cover.
3. Inspect the filters, and replace them if they are damaged.
4. Clean the filters.

Paper filter: Tap the filter several times on a hard surface to remove dirt, or blow compressed air [not exceeding 30 psi (207 kPa)] through the filter from the inside. Never try to brush off dirt; brushing will force dirt into the fibers.

Foam filter: Clean in warm soapy water, rinse, and allow to dry thoroughly. Or clean in nonflammable solvent and allow to dry. Dip the filter in clean engine oil and squeeze out all excess oil.

MAINTENANCE

NOTICE

Excess oil will restrict air flow through the foam filter and may transfer to the paper filter, soaking and clogging it.

- 5. Wipe dirt from the inside of the air cleaner housing and cover, using a moist rag. Be careful to prevent dirt from entering the air duct that leads to the carburetor.
- 6. Reinstall the filters and cover. Tighten the cover screw securely.

Spark Plug Service

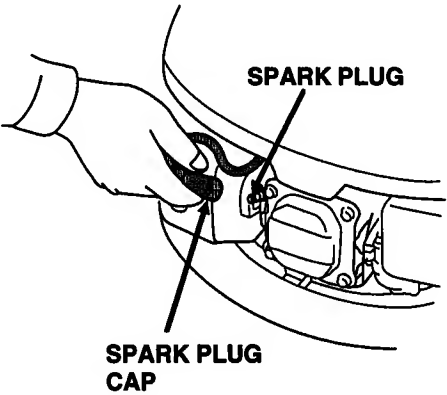
RECOMMENDED SPARK PLUGS	REGULAR	RESISTOR*
NGK	BP5ES	BPR5ES
NIPPON DENSO	W16EP-U	W16EPR-U
CHAMPION	N12Y	RN12Y
* Resistor spark plugs reduce interference with radio and TV reception.		

NOTICE

Incorrect spark plugs can cause engine damage.

For good performance, the spark plug must be properly gapped and free of deposits.

- 1. Disconnect the spark plug cap and remove any dirt from around the spark plug area.



2. Remove the spark plug with a $\frac{13}{16}$ in (21 mm) spark plug wrench.
3. Inspect the spark plug. Replace it if the electrodes are worn, or if the insulator is cracked or chipped. Clean the spark plug with a wire brush if you are going to reuse it.
4. Measure the spark plug electrode gap with a suitable gauge. The gap should be 0.028 ~ 0.031 in (0.7 ~ 0.8 mm). Correct the gap, if necessary, by carefully bending the side electrode.
5. Install the spark plug carefully, by hand, to avoid cross-threading.
6. After the spark plug seats, tighten with a $\frac{13}{16}$ in (21 mm) spark plug wrench to compress the washer.

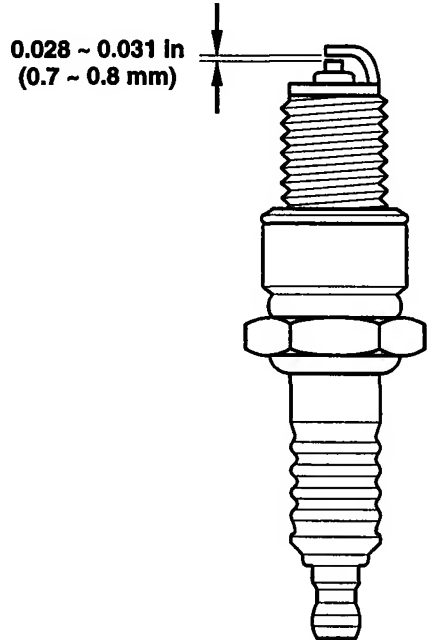
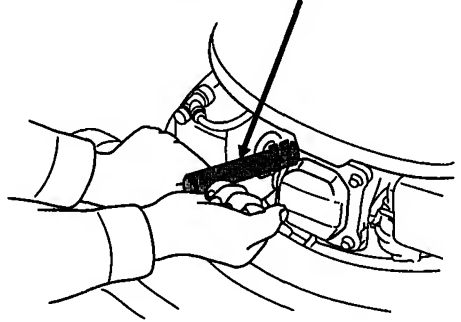
If reinstalling the old spark plug, tighten $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ turn after the spark plug seats.

If installing a new spark plug, tighten $\frac{1}{2}$ turn after the spark plug seats to compress the washer.

NOTICE

A loose spark plug can overheat and damage the engine. Overtightening the spark plug can damage the threads in the cylinder head.

SPARK PLUG WRENCH



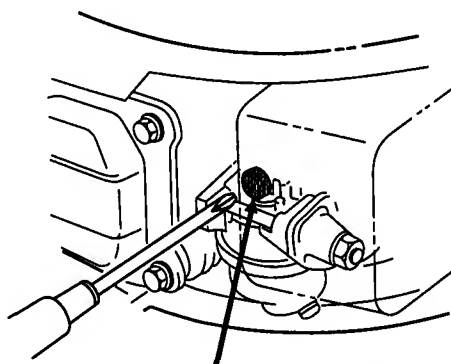
7. Install the spark plug cap on the spark plug.

MAINTENANCE

Carburetor Adjustment

1. Start the engine outdoors, and allow it to warm up to normal operating temperature.
2. Set the throttle lever in the SLOW position.
3. Turn the throttle stop screw to obtain the standard idle speed.

Standard idle speed:
 $2,100 \pm 150$ rpm



THROTTLE STOP SCREW

Carburetor Modification for High Altitude Operation

At high altitude, the standard carburetor air-fuel mixture will be too rich. Performance will decrease, and fuel consumption will increase. A very rich mixture will also foul the spark plug and cause hard starting.

High altitude performance can be improved by specific modifications to the carburetor. If you always operate your mower at altitudes above 6,000 feet (1,800 meters) have an authorized Honda servicing dealer perform this carburetor modification.

Even with carburetor modification, engine horsepower will decrease about 3.5% for each 1,000-foot (300-meter) increase in altitude. The effect of altitude on horsepower will be greater than this if no carburetor modification is made.

NOTICE

When the carburetor has been modified for high altitude operation, the air-fuel mixture will be too lean for low altitude use. Operation at altitudes below 6,000 feet (1,800 meters) with a modified carburetor may cause the engine to overheat and result in serious engine damage. For use at low altitudes, have an authorized Honda servicing dealer return the carburetor to original factory specifications.

Fuel Recommendations

Use unleaded gasoline with a pump octane rating of 86 or higher.

This engine is certified to operate on unleaded gasoline. Unleaded gasoline produces fewer engine and spark plug deposits and extends exhaust system life.

Never use stale or contaminated gasoline or an oil/gasoline mixture. Avoid getting dirt or water in the fuel tank.

Occasionally you may hear light "spark knock" or "pinging" (metallic rapping noise) while operating under heavy loads. This is no cause for concern.

If spark knock or pinging occurs at a steady engine speed, under normal load, change brands of gasoline. If spark knock or pinging persists, see an authorized Honda servicing dealer.

NOTICE

Running the engine with persistent spark knock or pinging can cause engine damage.

Running the engine with persistent spark knock or pinging is misuse, and the Distributor's Limited Warranty does not cover parts damaged by misuse.

For oxygenated fuel information refer to [page 78](#).

MAINTENANCE

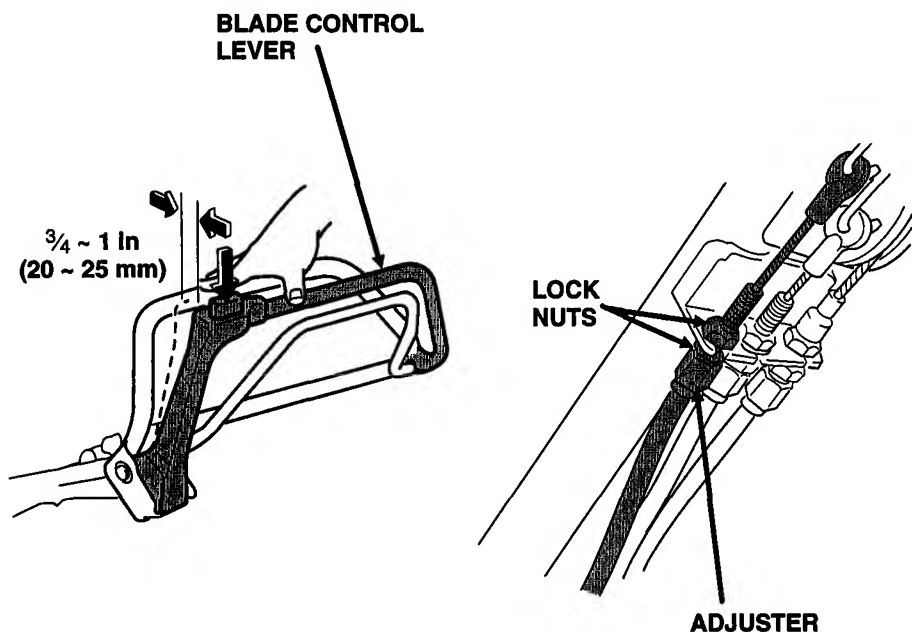
CONTROL CABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Blade Control Cable Adjustment

Measure free play at the top of the lever, while holding the button down. Free play should be $\frac{3}{4}$ ~ 1 in (20 ~ 25 mm). If adjustment is necessary:

1. Loosen the locknuts with a 10 mm wrench, and move the adjuster up or down as required.
2. Tighten the locknuts and recheck free play.
3. Start the engine outdoors, and operate the blade control lever. Check that the blade starts when you push the lever forward and stops quickly when you release the lever.

If the blade does not start or stop as it should, with correct cable adjustment, take the mower to an authorized Honda lawn mower dealer for repair.

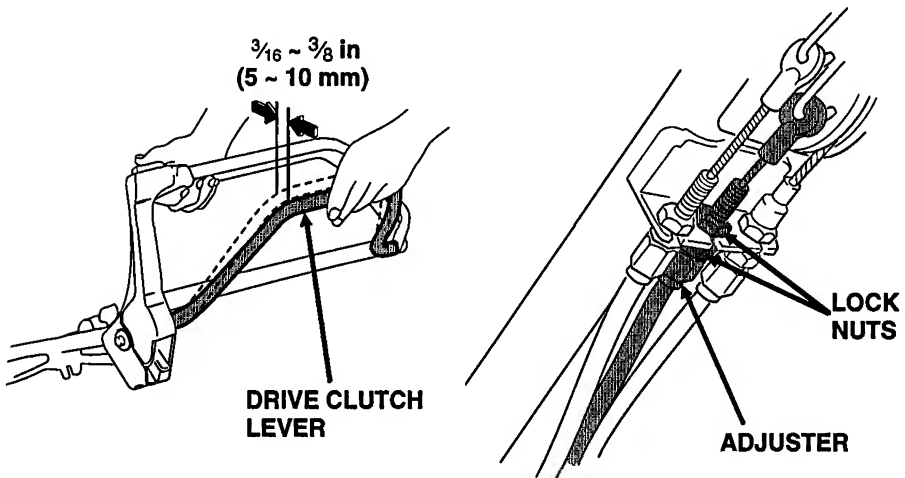


Drive Clutch Cable Adjustment

Measure free play at the top of the lever, as shown. Free play should be $\frac{3}{16} \sim \frac{3}{8}$ in (5 ~ 10 mm). If adjustment is necessary:

1. Loosen the lock nuts with a 10 mm wrench, and move the adjuster up or down as required.
2. Tighten the lock nuts and recheck free play.
3. Start the engine outdoors, and operate the drive clutch lever. Check that the drive clutch engages and releases properly.

If the drive clutch does not operate as it should, with correct cable adjustment, take the mower to an authorized Honda servicing dealer for repair.



MAINTENANCE

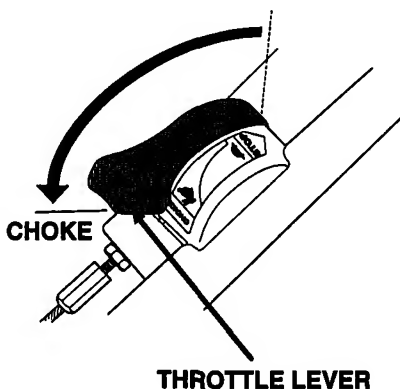
THROTTLE CABLE INSPECTION

Throttle cable adjustment is necessary if the throttle lever does not operate the choke properly.

You can inspect choke operation by observing the movement of the choke arm, which is located on top of the carburetor.

1. Move the throttle lever to the **CHOKE** position. The choke arm should move counterclockwise, until it contacts the stop post on the carburetor.

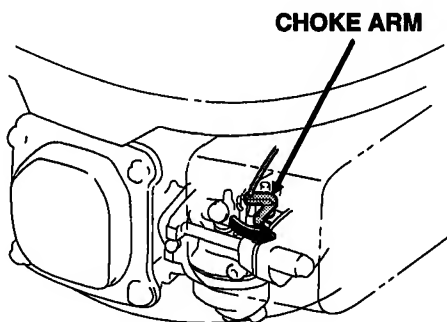
Push the choke arm with your finger to verify that it has moved as far as it will go.



2. Move the throttle lever to the **FAST** position. The choke arm should move clockwise, until it contacts the stop post on the carburetor.

Push the choke arm with your finger to verify that it has moved as far as it will go.

3. If the choke arm does not move all the way to its stop, in either direction, take the mower to an authorized Honda servicing dealer. Throttle cable adjustment involves related control plate adjustments.



BLADE REMOVAL AND INSTALLATION

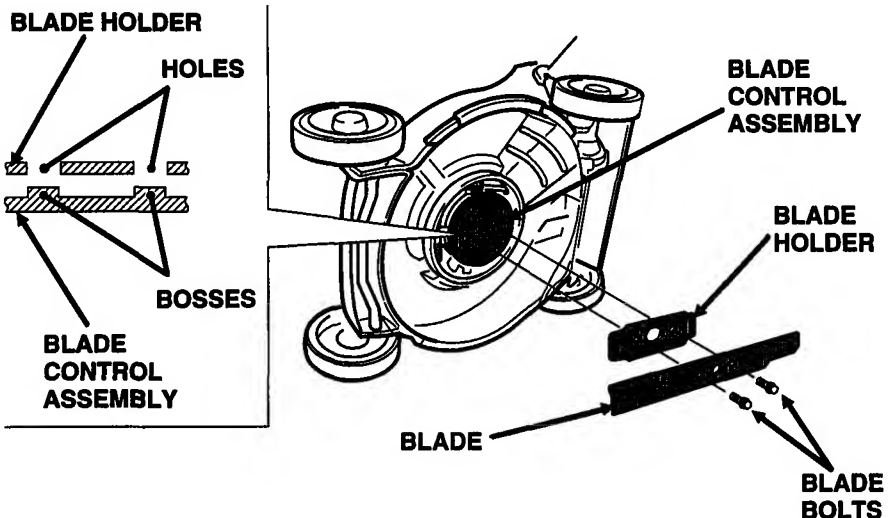
If you remove the blade for sharpening or replacement, you will need a torque wrench for installation. Wear heavy gloves to protect your hands.

BLADE SHARPENING: To avoid weakening the blade, or causing imbalance or poor cutting, the blade should be sharpened by trained staff at an authorized Honda servicing dealer.

BLADE REPLACEMENT: Use genuine Honda replacement blades or their equivalent.

Blade Removal

1. Put the throttle lever in the STOP position to close the fuel valve. Disconnect the spark plug cap, then tilt the mower to the right side, so the carburetor side is up. This will help to prevent fuel leakage and hard starting due to carburetor flooding.
2. Remove the two blade bolts with a 14 mm socket wrench. Use a wooden block to prevent the blade from turning when removing the bolts.
3. Remove the blade and blade holder from the blade control assembly. For correct reinstallation, note that the two holes in the blade holder align with the two raised bosses in the blade control assembly.



MAINTENANCE

Blade Installation

1. Clean dirt and grass from around the blade mounting area.
2. Align the two holes in the blade holder with the two raised bosses in the blade control assembly **(see page 55)**.

3. Hold the blade holder up against the blade control assembly and install the blade using the two blade bolts as shown.

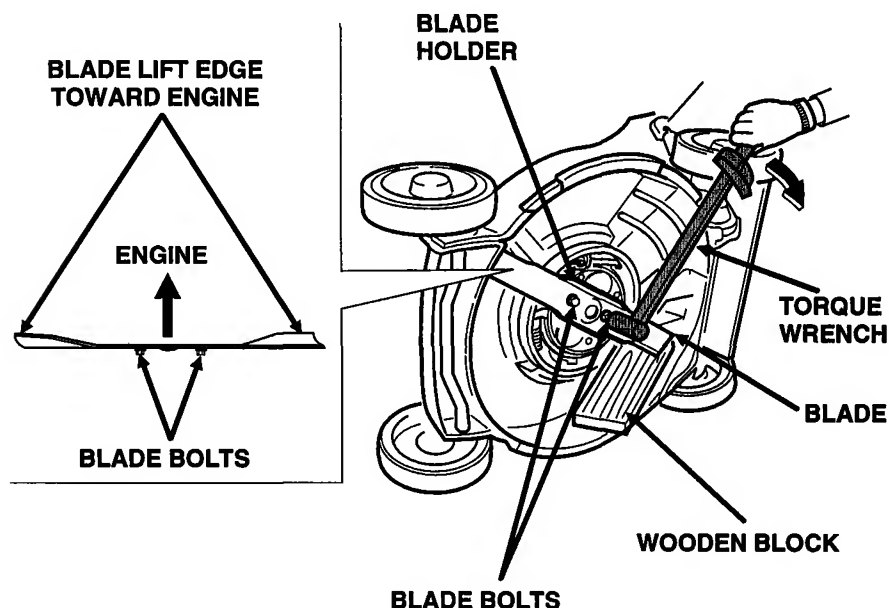
The blade lift edge must be toward the engine.

The blade bolts are specially designed for this application and must not be replaced with other bolts.

4. Tighten the blade bolts with a torque wrench. Use a wooden block to prevent the blade from turning when tightening the bolts.

Blade bolt torque: 36 ~ 43 ft-lb (49 ~ 59 N·m, 5.0 ~ 6.0 kg·m)

If you do not have a torque wrench, have an authorized Honda servicing dealer tighten the blade bolts before you use the mower. If the blade bolts are overtightened, they could break. If the blade bolts are not tightened enough, they could loosen or come out. In either case, it would be possible for the blade to fly off while you are operating the mower.



GRASS BAG CLEANING AND REPLACEMENT

Grass Bag Cleaning

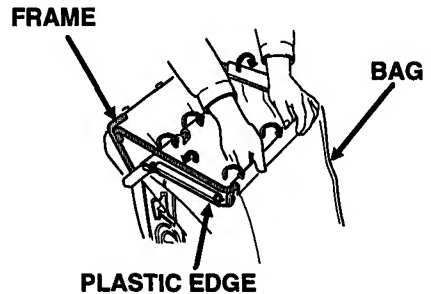
Wash the bag with a garden hose, and allow it to dry completely before use; a wet bag will clog quickly.

Grass Bag Replacement

Replace a worn or damaged bag with a Honda replacement bag or its equivalent.

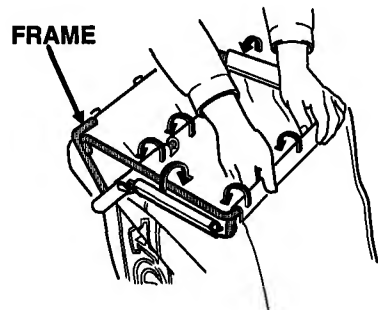
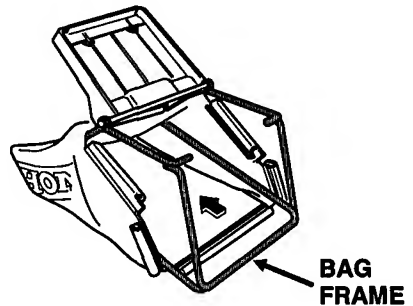
Bag Removal

1. Unclip the plastic edges of the bag from the frame.
2. Remove the bag from the frame.



Bag Installation

1. Insert the bag frame into the bag, as shown.
2. Clip the plastic edges of the bag onto the frame, as shown.



TROUBLESHOOTING

This chapter shows what to check if you have a problem with your mower.

ENGINE PROBLEMS.....	60
Engine will not start.....	60
Loss of power	60
VIBRATION PROBLEMS.....	61
MOWING AND BAGGING PROBLEMS.....	61

TROUBLESHOOTING

ENGINE PROBLEMS

Engine Will Not Start	Possible Cause	Correction
1. Check throttle lever position.	Throttle lever in wrong position.	Move throttle lever to CHOKE position, unless the engine is warm (p. 26).
2. Check fuel.	Out of fuel.	Refuel (p. 21).
	Bad fuel; mower stored without treating or draining gasoline, or refueled with bad gasoline.	Drain fuel tank and carburetor (p. 67). Refuel with fresh gasoline (p. 21).
3. Remove and inspect spark plug.	Spark plug faulty, fouled, or improperly gapped.	Clean, gap, or replace spark plug (p. 49).
	Spark plug wet with fuel (flooded engine).	Dry and reinstall spark plug. Start engine with throttle lever in FAST position.
4. Take mower to an authorized Honda servicing dealer, or refer to shop manual.	Fuel filter clogged, carburetor malfunction, ignition malfunction, valves stuck, etc.	Replace or repair faulty components as necessary.

Loss of Power	Possible Cause	Correction
1. Check throttle position.	Throttle not set to FAST.	Move throttle to FAST (p. 28).
2. Check grass height.	Grass too tall to cut.	Raise cutting height (p. 15), cut narrower swath (p. 33), or cut more frequently.
3. Check under mower deck.	Mower deck clogged.	Clean out mower deck (p. 34).
4. Check air filters.	Air filters clogged.	Clean or replace air filters (p. 47).
5. Check fuel.	Bad fuel; mower stored without treating or draining gasoline, or refueled with bad gasoline.	Drain fuel tank and carburetor (p. 67). Refuel with fresh gasoline (p. 21).
6. Take mower to an authorized Honda servicing dealer, or refer to shop manual.	Fuel filter clogged, carburetor malfunction, ignition malfunction, valves stuck, etc.	Replace or repair faulty components as necessary.

VIBRATION PROBLEMS

Excessive vibration	Possible Cause	Correction
1. Check mower deck and blade.	Grass and debris lodged under mower deck.	Clean out mower deck (p.34).
	Blade loose, bent, damaged, or unbalanced by improper sharpening.	Tighten loose blade bolts. Replace damaged blade (p. 55 - 56).
2. Take mower to an authorized Honda servicing dealer for repair.	Mechanical damage, such as a bent crankshaft.	Replace or repair faulty components as necessary.

MOWING AND BAGGING PROBLEMS

Poor Cut Quality or Poor Mowing/Bagging Performance	Possible Cause	Correction
1. Check that the throttle lever is in the FAST position.	Engine speed is too slow to cut well.	Move throttle lever to the FAST position (p. 28).
2. Reduce forward speed.	Mower is moving too fast for lawn conditions.	Shift to slow speed (p. 29).
3. Check cutting height adjustment levers.	Adjustment levers set at different positions.	Set both levers at the same cutting height position (p. 15).
4. Check grass bag.	Grass bag overfilled or clogged.	Empty the grass bag. Wash the grass bag if clogged with dirt (p. 57).
5. Check mower deck and blade.	Mower deck clogged.	Clean out the mower deck (p. 34).
	Blade dull, worn, or damaged.	Sharpen or replace blade if necessary (p. 55 - 56).
	Wrong blade installed.	Install correct blade (p. 55 - 56).

STORAGE

This chapter explains how to protect your mower from rust and corrosion, and ensure that it will start easily when you want to use it again.

STORAGE PREPARATION	64
Cleaning	64
Engine	64
Mower Deck	64
Grass Bag	64
Fuel	66
Adding fuel stabilizer to extend fuel storage life	66
Draining the Fuel Tank and Carburetor	67
Engine Oil	67
Engine Cylinder	68
PLACING IN STORAGE	69
REMOVING FROM STORAGE	69

STORAGE

STORAGE PREPARATION

Proper storage preparation is essential for keeping your lawn mower troublefree and looking good. The following steps will help to keep rust and corrosion from impairing your lawn mower's function and appearance, and will make the engine easier to start when you use the lawn mower again.

Cleaning

1. Wash the lawn mower, including the underside of the mower deck.

Engine

Wash the engine by hand, and be careful to prevent water from entering the air cleaner.

NOTICE

- Using a garden hose or pressure washing equipment can force water into the air cleaner. Water in the air cleaner will soak the filters and can enter the carburetor or engine cylinder, causing damage.
- Water contacting a hot engine can cause damage. If the engine has been running, allow it to cool for at least half an hour before washing.

Mower Deck

If using a garden hose or pressure washing equipment to clean the mower deck, be careful to avoid getting water into controls and cables, or anywhere near the engine air cleaner or muffler opening.

Before washing the underside of the mower deck, be sure the throttle lever is in the STOP position. Disconnect the spark plug cap. Rest the mower on its right side, so the carburetor side is up. This will help to prevent fuel leakage and hard starting due to carburetor flooding. Wear heavy gloves to protect your hands from the blade.

Grass Bag

Remove the bag from the mower, and wash it with a garden hose or pressure washing equipment. Allow the bag to dry completely before storage.

2. After washing the lawn mower, wipe dry all accessible surfaces.

3. With the mower in an upright position, start the engine outdoors, and let it run until it reaches normal operating temperature to evaporate any water remaining on the engine.
4. While the engine is running, operate the blade control lever 4 or 5 times to expel water from the blade control mechanism. Allow the blade to spin for several minutes to ensure that no water remains.
5. Stop the engine and allow it to cool.
6. After the lawn mower is clean and dry, touch up any damaged paint, and coat other areas that may rust with a light film of oil. Lubricate the control cable cores with a silicone spray lubricant.

STORAGE

Fuel

Gasoline will oxidize and deteriorate in storage. Old gasoline will cause hard starting, and it leaves gum deposits that clog the fuel system. If the gasoline in your mower deteriorates during storage, you may need to have the carburetor and other fuel system components, serviced or replaced.

The length of time that gasoline can be left in your fuel tank and carburetor without causing functional problems will vary with such factors as gasoline blend, your storage temperatures, and whether the fuel tank is partially or completely filled. The air in a partially filled fuel tank promotes fuel deterioration. Very warm storage temperatures accelerate fuel deterioration. Fuel deterioration problems may occur within a few months, or even less if the gasoline was not fresh when you filled the fuel tank.

The Distributor's Limited Warranty does not cover fuel system damage or engine performance problems resulting from neglected storage preparation.

You can extend fuel storage life by adding a gasoline stabilizer that is formulated for that purpose, or you can avoid fuel deterioration problems by draining the fuel tank and carburetor.

Adding fuel stabilizer to extend fuel storage life:

When adding a fuel stabilizer, fill the fuel tank with fresh gasoline. If only partially filled, air in the tank will promote fuel deterioration during storage. If you keep a container of gasoline for refueling, be sure that it contains only fresh gasoline.

1. Add fuel stabilizer following manufacturer's instructions.
2. After adding a fuel stabilizer, run the engine outdoors for 10 minutes to be sure that treated gasoline has replaced the untreated gasoline in the carburetor.
3. Stop the engine, and leave the throttle lever in the STOP position. This turns off the fuel valve between the fuel tank and the carburetor.

Draining the Fuel Tank and Carburetor:

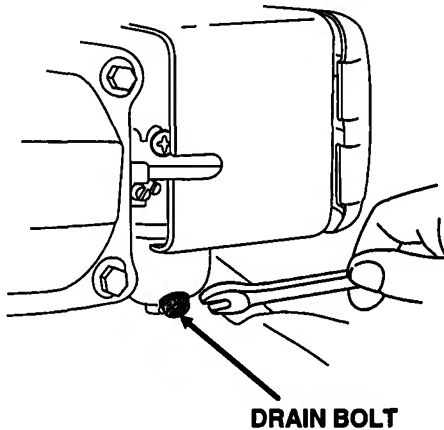
1. Remove the carburetor drain bolt with a 10 mm wrench, and drain the carburetor bowl fuel into an approved container.

⚠ WARNING

Gasoline is highly flammable and explosive, and you can be burned or seriously injured when handling fuel.

- Stop engine and keep heat, sparks, and flame away.
- Handle fuel only outdoors.
- Wipe up spills immediately.

2. Move the throttle lever to the SLOW or FAST position to open the fuel valve. This will allow fuel in the fuel tank to drain through the carburetor bowl.



3. Reinstall the drain bolt.

Engine Oil

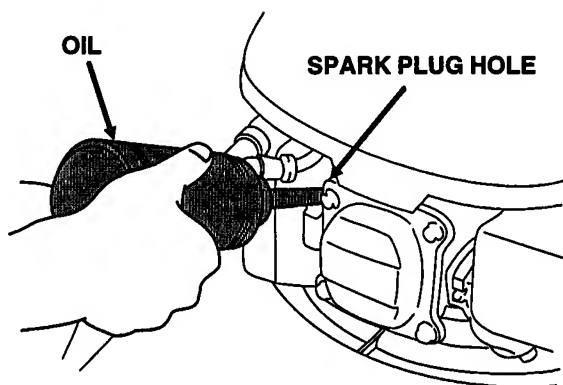
Change the engine oil (see page 45).

STORAGE

Engine Cylinder

Remove the spark plug (see page 49). Pour a tablespoon (5 ~ 10 cc) of clean engine oil into the cylinder. Pull the starter rope several times to distribute the oil in the cylinder. Reinstall the spark plug.

Pull the starter rope slowly until resistance is felt then return the starter grip gently. This will close the valves so moisture cannot enter the engine cylinder.



PLACING IN STORAGE

If your mower will be stored with gasoline in the fuel tank and carburetor, it is important to reduce the hazard of gasoline vapor ignition. Select a well-ventilated storage area away from any appliance that operates with a flame, such as a furnace, water heater, or clothes dryer. Also avoid any area with a spark-producing electric motor, or where power tools are operated.

If possible, avoid storage areas with high humidity, because that promotes rust and corrosion.

Unless all fuel has been drained from the fuel tank, leave the throttle lever in the STOP position to close the fuel valve and reduce the possibility of fuel leakage.

Place the mower with its wheels on a level surface. Tilting can cause fuel or oil leakage.

With the engine and exhaust system cool, cover the mower to keep out dust. A hot engine and exhaust system can ignite or melt some materials. Do not use sheet plastic as a dust cover. A nonporous cover will trap moisture around the mower, promoting rust and corrosion.

REMOVING FROM STORAGE

Check your mower as described in the BEFORE OPERATION chapter of this manual.

If the fuel was drained during storage preparation, fill the tank with fresh gasoline. If you keep a container of gasoline for refueling, be sure that it contains only fresh gasoline. Gasoline oxidizes and deteriorates over time, causing hard starting.

If the cylinder was coated with oil during storage preparation, the engine will smoke briefly at startup. This is normal.

SPECIFICATIONS

This chapter gives dimensions, capacities, and other technical information.

MOWER MODEL	72
DIMENSION, WEIGHTS, AND CAPACITIES	72
ENGINE DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE.....	73
TRANSMISSION DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE.....	73
MAINTENANCE	74
TUNEUP	74

SPECIFICATIONS

MOWER MODEL

HRC215K1SXA: Self-propelled, high-lift blade and grass bag

DIMENSIONS, WEIGHTS, AND CAPACITIES

Maximum Length	65 ⁵ / ₈ in (1,665 mm)
Maximum Width	22 ³ / ₁₆ in (565 mm)
Overall height	40 in (1,020 mm)
Dry weight	103 lb (456 N)
Cutting Width	21 in (530 mm)
Approximate Cutting Height (adjustable)	1 in (25.5 mm), 1½ in (38 mm), 2 in (51 mm), 2½ in (63 mm), 3 in (76 mm)
Fuel Tank Capacity	0.26 US gal (1.0 ℓ)
Engine Oil Capacity	0.63 US qt (0.6 ℓ)
Transmission Fluid Capacity	4.40 fl oz (130 cc)
Grass Bag Capacity	21.9 US gal (83 ℓ, 2.4 bushels, 2.9 cu ft)

ENGINE DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE

Engine Model	GXV140K1
Engine Type	4-stroke, overhead-valve, single cylinder, forced air-cooled
Displacement	8.2 cu in (135 cc)
Bore and Stroke	2.52 x 1.65 in (64 x 42 mm)
Compression Ratio	8:1
Ignition System	Transistorized Magneto
Maximum Horsepower	5.0 bhp (3.7 kW) at 3,600 rpm
Maximum Torque	7.6 ft-lb (10.3 N·m) at 2,700 rpm

TRANSMISSION DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE

Transmission Type	2 speed, manual shift
Mower Ground Speed (with engine at 3,100 rpm)	1 (SLOW): 2.5 mph (4.0 km/h) 2 (FAST): 3.4 mph (5.4 km/h)

SPECIFICATIONS

MAINTENANCE

Fuel	Unleaded gasoline with a pump octane rating of 86 or higher	See page 51.
Engine Oil	SAE 10W-30, API SF,SG or equivalent	See page 45.
Transmission Oil	Hypoid gear oil, SAE 90	See shop manual
Spark Plug Type	Regular: NGK – BP5ES NIPPON DENSO – W16EP-U CHAMPION – N12Y Resistor: NGK – BPR5ES NIPPON DENSO – W16EPR-U CHAMPION – RN12Y	See page 48.
Maximum Governed Speed	3,100 ± 150 rpm	See shop manual.
Blade Control Cable	Adjust for $\frac{3}{4}$ ~ 1 in (20 ~ 25 mm) free play at blade control lever.	See page 52.
Drive Clutch Cable	Adjust for $\frac{3}{16}$ ~ $\frac{3}{8}$ in (5 ~ 10 mm) free play at drive clutch lever.	See page 53.
Throttle Cable	Adjust for proper choke operation and maximum governed speed.	See shop manual.
Blade Bolt Torque	36 ~ 43 ft-lb (5.0 ~ 6.0 kg-m, 49 ~ 59 N·m)	See page 53.

TUNEUP

Spark Plug Gap	0.028 ~ 0.031 in (0.7 ~ 0.8 mm)	See page 49.
Idle Speed	2,100 ± 150 rpm	See page 50.
Valve Clearance (cold)	Intake: 0.15 ± 0.02 mm Exhaust: 0.20 ± 0.02 mm	See shop manual.
Other Specifications	No other adjustments needed.	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This chapter contains additional information, Honda publications available to you, and tells you how to contact us if you have a question or a warranty repair problem.

HONDA PUBLICATIONS.....	76
Shop Manual.....	76
Parts Catalog	76
WARRANTY SERVICE INFORMATION.....	77
OXYGENATED FUELS	78
SPARK ARRESTER SERVICE	
(OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT)	79

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

HONDA PUBLICATIONS

These publications will give you additional information for maintaining and repairing your mower. You may order them from your Honda lawn mower dealer.

Shop Manual

This manual covers complete maintenance and overhaul procedures. It is intended to be used by a skilled technician.

Parts Catalog

This manual provides complete, illustrated parts lists.

WARRANTY SERVICE INFORMATION

Honda Power Equipment dealership personnel are trained professionals. They should be able to answer any question you may have. If you encounter a problem that your dealer does not solve to your satisfaction, please discuss it with the dealership's management. The Service Manager or General Manager can help. Almost all problems are solved in this way.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by the dealership's management, contact the Honda Power Equipment Customer Service Office. You can write:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Honda Power Equipment Division
Customer Relations Office
4475 River Green Parkway
Duluth, GA 30136-2565

Or telephone: (770) 497-6400

When you write or call, please give us this information:

- Model and serial numbers (see page 11)
- Name of the dealer who sold the lawn mower to you
- Name and address of the dealer who services your lawn mower
- Date of purchase
- Your name, address, and telephone number
- A detailed description of the problem

Current customer service contact information:

United States, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands:

Honda Power Equipment dealership personnel are trained professionals. They should be able to answer any question you may have. If you encounter a problem that your dealer does not solve to your satisfaction, please discuss it with the dealership's management. The Service Manager or General Manager can help. Almost all problems are solved in this way.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by the dealership's management, contact the Honda Power Equipment Customer Relations Office. You can write:

American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
Power Equipment Division
Customer Relations Office
4900 Marconi Drive
Alpharetta, GA 30005-8847

Or telephone: (770) 497-6400 M-F, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm EST

When you write or call, please provide the following information:

- Model and serial numbers
- Name of the dealer who sold the Honda power equipment to you
- Name and address of the dealer who services your equipment
- Date of purchase
- Your name, address, and telephone number
- A detailed description of the problem

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OXYGENATED FUELS

Some conventional gasolines are being blended with alcohol or an ether compound. These gasolines are collectively referred to as oxygenated fuels. To meet clean air standards, some areas of the United States and Canada use oxygenated fuels to help reduce emissions.

If you use an oxygenated fuel, be sure it is unleaded and meets the minimum octane rating requirement.

Before using an oxygenated fuel, try to confirm the fuel's contents. Some states/provinces require this information to be posted on the pump.

The following are the EPA approved percentages of oxygenates:

ETHANOL ———(ethyl or grain alcohol) 10% by volume
You may use gasoline containing up to 10% ethanol by volume. Gasoline containing ethanol may be marketed under the name "Gasohol".

MTBE —————(Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether) 15% by volume
You may use gasoline containing up to 15% MTBE by volume.

METHANOL ———(methyl or wood alcohol) 5% by volume
You may use gasoline containing up to 5% methanol by volume, as long as it also contains cosolvents and corrosion inhibitors to protect the fuel system. Gasoline containing more than 5% methanol by volume may cause starting and/or performance problems. It may also damage metal, rubber, and plastic parts of your fuel system.

If you notice any undesirable operating symptoms, try another service station, or switch to another brand of gasoline.

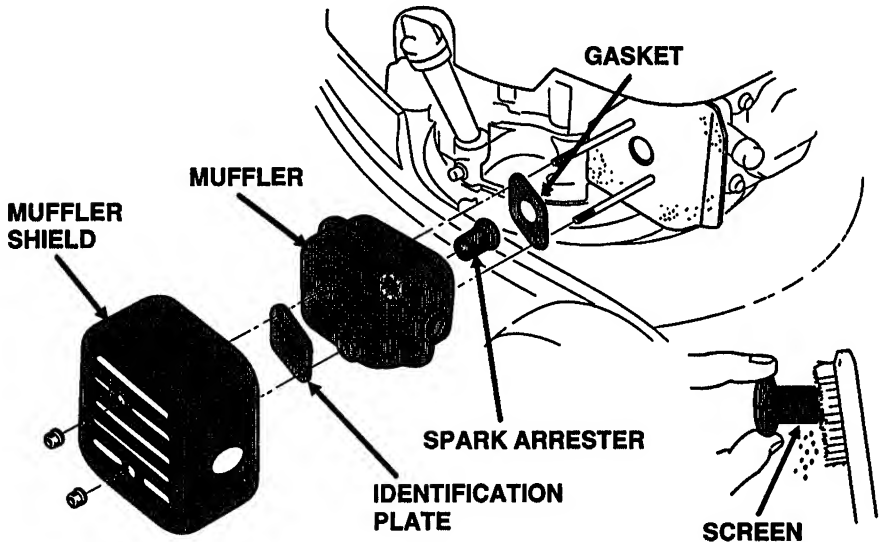
Fuel system damage or performance problems resulting from the use of an oxygenated fuel containing more than the percentages of oxygenates mentioned above are not covered under warranty.

SPARK ARRESTER SERVICE (OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT)

The engine in your lawn mower is not factory-equipped with a spark arrester. In some areas, it is illegal to operate an engine without a spark arrester. Check local laws and regulations. A spark arrester is available from authorized Honda servicing dealers.

The spark arrester must be serviced every 100 hours to keep it functioning as designed.

1. Allow the engine to cool, then remove the two nuts from the muffler shield, using a 10 mm socket wrench.
2. Remove the muffler shield, identification plate, muffler, and gasket.
3. Remove the spark arrester from the muffler.
4. Check for carbon deposits on the spark arrester and the exhaust port. Brush carbon deposits away. Be careful to avoid damaging the spark arrester screen.
5. Install the spark arrester in the muffler.
6. Install the muffler components on the engine, and tighten the two nuts securely.



INDEX

A

- Air Cleaner Inspection22
- Air Cleaner Service47

B

- Blade:
 - Inspection 19
 - Installation56
 - Removal55
- Blade Control Lever:
 - Cable Adjustment.....52
 - Operation 13 & 28

C

- Carburetor:
 - Adjustment50
 - High Altitude Operation.....50
- Choke 12 & 26
- Clogged Mower Deck 34
- Clothing Recommendations... 24
- Component Identification 10
- Contents..... 3
- Control Cable Adjustments:
 - Blade Control Cable.....52
 - Drive Clutch Cable53
- Cutting Height:
 - Adjustment Levers 15
 - Recommendations 33
- Cutting Width
 - Recommendations 33

D

- Damage Prevention Message
 - Definition 2
- Description of Controls 12
- Drive Clutch Lever:
 - Cable Adjustment.....53
 - Operation 13 & 29

E

- Emission Control System 42
- Engine:
 - Fuel Recommendations 51
 - Maintenance 45
 - Oil Change..... 45
 - Oil Level..... 20
 - Oil Recommendations 45
 - Refueling..... 21
 - Serial Number..... 11
 - Specifications 71
 - Starting 26
 - Stopping..... 30
 - Troubleshooting..... 59

F

- Fallen Leaves; Bagging 34
- Frame Serial Number 11
- Fuel:
 - Additive to Extend Storage Life 66
 - Gasoline
 - Recommendations 51
 - Draining 67
 - Refueling..... 21

G

- Gasoline Recommendations . 51
- Grass Bag:
 - Cleaning..... 57 & 64
 - Inspection 23
 - Removal and Installation ... 23
 - Replacement 57

INDEX

H

High Altitude Operation50

I

Inspection Before Mowing:

Lawn 18

Mower 19

Introduction..... 1

L

Lawn:

Inspection Before Mowing.. 18

Mowing Tips33

Safe Mowing Practices.....31

Leaves; Bagging34

M

Maintenance:

Blade Removal and
Installation55

Cable Adjustments52

Engine45

Grass Bag Cleaning &
Replacement57

Importance40

Responsibility43

Safety41

Schedule44

Specifications71

Mower Deck Clogging34

Mowing:

Around Obstacles, Gravel,
Objects.....32

Dry & Wet Grass34

Fallen Leaves34

Pattern35

Slopes31

Tips.....33

When to Mow33

O

Oil (for engine):

Change 45

Level Check20

Recommendations..... 45

Operating the Controls for

Mowing 28

P

Pre-Operation Check:

Lawn 18

Mower 19

Publications..... 76

S

Safety:

Important Message to

Employers 7

Safe Mowing Practices 31

Important Safety

Information 6

Safety Label Locations 8

Safety Message Definitions 2

Serial Numbers 11

Shift Lever:

Operation 14 & 29

Spark Arrester Service

(Optional Equipment) 79

Spark Plug Recommendations

& Service..... 48

Specifications:

Capacities 72

Dimensions 72

Engine Design and

Performance..... 73

Maintenance 74

Transmission Design and

Performance..... 73

Tuneup..... 74

Weights 72

Starting the Engine	26
Stopping the Engine	30
Storage:	
Placing In Storage.....	69
Preparation	64
Removing From Storage....	69

T

Throttle Lever:	
Cable Inspection	54
Operation	12 & 28
Transmission:	
Drive Clutch Cable	
Adjustment	53
Drive Clutch Lever	
Operation.....	13 & 29
Shift Lever	
Operation.....	14 & 29
Specifications	71
Transporting	37
Troubleshooting:	
Engine Problems.....	60
Mowing and Bagging	
Problems	61
Vibration Problems.....	61
Tuneup Specifications	74

W

Warranty Service	
Information	77
Washing:	
Grass Bag	57 & 64
Mower	64

HONDA

31VB5800
00X31-VB5-8000



Printed on
Recycled Paper

K1
CPI 15009601
PRINTED IN U.S.A.